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Official Previews 7 Aug ECO Meeting in Tehran

LD0508135893 Tehran IRNA in English 1223 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 5, IRNA—The first joint meeting of the council of deputy ministers of the 10-member Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and experts from member states will open in Tehran on Saturday [7 August], a senior official said here Thursday.

Mahmud Musavi, the director general for Western Asia at the Foreign Ministry, said the session will focus on the establishment of ECO's development and trade bank and the organization's airlines, shipping line and insurance company. The decisions made at the recent summit meet of ECO member states in Istanbul will also be followed up in the Tehran meeting, Musavi said.

The statute of the ECO bank, airline, insurance company and shipping line have already been drawn up, and now that the headquarters of these companies have been decided by the ECO heads of state, the project is being finalized, he said. According to the decisions made by the ECO heads of state in Istanbul, the ECO development and trade bank will be based in Turkey, insurance company in Pakistan and air and shipping lines in Iran.

Musavi said the companies will be set up and run jointly by all member states with each having shares in them. The ECO development and trade bank at initial stage will open branches in Iran and Pakistan, the Iranian official said.

He said that the ECO insurance company is of great significance since it will stop flow of large sums of money in premium into companies based outside the region. Musavi added the ECO shipping line, whose statute has already been prepared, will be set up in Iran. Due to importance of air transportation, the Islamic Republic proposed at the Istanbul summit meet to reconsider setting up an ECO airline company which was welcomed. The ECO heads of state decided to make Tehran the headquarters of the airline and instructed the ECO experts to work on its statute, he said. more

Musavi added that since some of ECO's new members are landlocked, development of communication routes and tele-communications among the member states is given top priority by the organiaztion. In order to attain this goal, he said, the road and transportation ministers of ECO will soon meet in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

On the efforts made by the Islamic Republic during the Istanbul meet, Musavi said that eight of the 10 proposals approved at the summit meet had been put forward by the Iranian delegation. Among them are setting up of exhibitions at the capitals of ECO member states in an effort to promote their economic and trade relations and border markets.

Referring to border markets already established between Iran and Turkey, Azerbaijan Republic, Turkmenistan and Afghanistan, Musavi said that the Islamic Republic has valuable experiences in this regard.

In order to promote economic relations among ECO members, the Islamic Republic also proposed at the Istanbul summit that a minimum such as five million dollars, be fixed for trade exchanges among the member countries. If implemented, each ECO member will export 450 million dollars worth of goods to other member countries in the first year and by increasing the minimum level, the figure will substantially rise in a near future. He said joint manufacture of cars, agricultural machinery and communication equipment were other projects proposed at the Istanbul meeting.

On prospect of the organization, he said that joining of six new members has activated the organization. He said in terms of the area of the countries grouped in the Economic Cooperation Organization, ECO is the largest establishment in the region.

ECO has council of ministers, council of deputy ministers, planning council, eight working committees and a secretariat. Four new establishments - ECO bank, shipping line, insurance company and airline will soon be established. The ECO's secretariat and council of deputy ministers are based in Tehran. Iran, Turkey and Pakistan are the founding members of the ECO. However, recently Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan joined the organization, bringing its members to 10.

Palestinian Affairs

Pressure on Delegation To Accept U.S. Paper Noted

PM0608083993 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Aug 93 p 3

['Ali al-Salih report: "Democratic Front Official Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: "Christopher's Negotiations With Palestinians Failed Despite PLO Leadership's Pressures From Tunis"']

[Text] London—A Palestinian official in Damascus has stressed that the meeting held in Jerusalem the day before yesterday between some members of the Palestinian negotiating delegation and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher failed to achieve the desired results after the Palestinian negotiators refused to comply with the recommendations of the PLO leadership in Tunis and Cairo or agree to the declaration of principles on the basis of the proposed U.S. document.

According to Dawud al-Talhami, member of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine Political Bureau, which is based in Damascus, Christopher emerged from the meeting annoyed and told the Palestinians with whom he met—who included Faysal al-Husayni, head of the negotiating team; Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the delegation; Sa'ib 'Urayqat, deputy head of the delegation; Jabr Fadilah; and Nabil

Qassis—that events more serious than the Israeli attack on Lebanon could occur if the Palestinians insist on rejecting the U.S-Israeli proposals and the draft declaration of principles and if the peace process fails.

According to al-Talhami and other Palestinian sources, members of the delegation were surprised last Monday [2 August], before their meeting with Christopher, by the arrival of proposals faxed by the PLO leadership from Tunis and Cairo urging them to accept the proposed U.S. document as a draft declaration of principles with Israel with limited amendments and to agree to defer raising the fate of Jerusalem until the final phase of the negotiations.

Al-Talhami told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the atmosphere at the meeting was tense, because the Palestinian negotiators had agreed among themselves to reject the instructions they had received from the PLO leadership in Tunis and Cairo.

He added that following prolonged discussions at a house in Ramallah last Monday, all the negotiators agreed unanimously to reject the leadership's proposals.

According to the Front's official, the negotiators, including Faysal al-Husayni and 'Ashrawi, agreed not to submit the instructions to Christopher, who had received a copy of these instructions in Cairo but expected to receive them officially through the negotiating delegation.

According to al-Talhami, the entire Palestinian delegation is in a state of alarm, especially because the general atmosphere in the occupied territories is opposed to dealing with the U.S. document or agreeing to make small amendments to it. The delegation also insists on refusing to participate in the negotiations unless Israel complies with the principle of withdrawing from the occupied territories.

According to the assessment of the Front official, enormous pressures are being exerted on members of the delegation to backtrack on their position of rejecting the instructions of the leadership in Tunis at the meeting to be held with Christopher in Jerusalem today.

Al-Talhami said that Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the negotiating delegation, who, along with Dr. Ghassan al-Khatib of the People's Party and Mamduh al-'Akr, refused to participate in the meeting with Christopher, has received hints from the Palestinian leadership in Cairo at the possibility of changing members of the negotiating delegation if they continue to reject the amendments.

However Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi has emphasized that this change is not possible because it is bound to lead to problems in the occupied territories and because the people's orientation does not accept backtracking.

On the existence of a disagreement among members of the delegation as a result of the agreement by some members to meet with Christopher and the refusal by others to meet with him, he said, "there is dissimilarity between the positions of members of the delegations vis-a-vis meeting with Christopher.

"Some members, especially al-Husayni, urged the need to meet with the Americans in order to inform them of the Palestinian position. And when the members met in Ramallah last Monday, they decided that only al-Husayni should meet with Christopher to inform him of the position. Then they agreed at the Jerusalem meeting the day before yesterday that al-Husayni should be accompanied by some members—which is what happened."

Al-Talhami pointed to the existence of a difference between what the Palestinian negotiators demanded, namely Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank, and what the Americans and the Israelis are proposing, namely gradual implementation of autonomy.

He said that what the Palestinian delegation demanded represents a consolidation of the principle of withdrawal from the territories. As for what the Americans and the Israelis are demanding, it is merely an administrative transfer for the Palestinians.

He pointed out that the Americans insist that any change must be made after the declaration of principles.

Factions Warn Against Accepting Paper

JN0508194493 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1655 GMT 5 Aug 93

["Text" of "political statement" by the 10 factions opposed to the Arab-Israeli peace talks; place and date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. A political statement issued by the 10 Palestinian factions:

No to the Madrid-Washington negotiations, no to the U.S. paper and the so-called declaration of principles on administrative self-rule.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is taking a new tour of the region in an exposed effort to reap the fruits of the Zionist aggression against fraternal Lebanon, the Lebanese and the Palestinian peoples and to impose the U.S.-Zionist formula represented by the U.S. paper. Mr. Christopher arrived in occupied Jerusalem from Cairo, supported by a paper involving a dangerous political deal. This deal was prepared before his arrival by the Egyptian regime and the bureaucratic wing of the PLO. The essence of this deal is to approve the U.S. paper, which sets the stage for the so-called joint declaration of principles on administrative self-rule.

Such self-rule is in line with the U.S.-Zionist interests. It is absolutely counter to the Palestinian people's interests and national rights.

Before Christopher's arrival in Jerusalem, members of the Palestinian negotiating delegation received a paper

from Tunis that included serious amendments to the rejected amendments that the Palestinian team handed to Dennis Ross during his recent tour, on the instructions of the Tunis leadership. These new amendments exclude Jerusalem from territorial jurisdiction, not to mention sovereignty, and refrain form defining the limits of territorial jurisdiction. They deal with Palestinian territory as disputed territory rather than occupied Palestinian territory. These amendments are part of the concessions offered by the domineering command since the beginning of the Madrid-Washington track.

The 10 Palestinian factions greet the masses of our people in the occupied territory and the diaspora. They have made clear their position on this visit in the comprehensive national strike of 3 August 1993 in towns, villages, and camps throughout our occupied territory. This strike, in response to the 10 factions' call, and the escalation of the valiant intifadah fighting occupation, are a protest of this visit and a condemnation of the Zionist aggression against Lebanon. We declare our condemnation and rejection of all that is going on behind the backs of the Palestinian people and their national factions at the expense of their national, inalienable rights.

The 10 Palestinian factions warn the Palestinian negotiating team about the gravity of responding to, accepting, or dealing with the U.S. paper or its amendments. Mr. Christopher is trying to impose this on our people in a U.S. deal with the Egyptian regime, after it was approved by the domineering bureaucratic wing of the PLO.

The 10 factions again call for withdrawal from the bilateral and multilateral talks. Withdrawal will be a prelude to a comprehensive national dialogue to restore national Palestinian unity on a democratic base, paving the way for the formulation of national Palestinian policy based on national Palestinian constants.

Long live the valiant intifadah! Immortality for the martyrs!

[Signed] The 10 Palestinian factions.

Editorial: Americans 'Renewing' Pressure

TA0508175393 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 5 Aug 93 p 9

[Editorial: "Christopher's Tour and the New U.S. Campaign"]

[Text] With U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's arrival in the region, an intensive diplomatic campaign was launched and led by the United States. This campaign basically seeks to realize and crystallize U.S.-Israeli ideas proposed during previous rounds of peace talks and demands that the Palestinian side define its positions on those proposals before the next round of talks is convened in Washington.

Christopher expressed skepticism at the possibility of achieving fundamental progress in the peace talks during his current visit when he met with the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks. Yet he focused his attention on reaching a joint Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles and asked the delegation to provide him with a written answer to the proposed U.S. draft, presented to the Palestinian side during the 10th round of talks.

When the Palestinian delegation reemphasized the substantive issues, such as Jerusalem, settlement activity, and geographic jurisdiction, and elaborated on the growing Palestinian suffering in the occupied territories, the U.S. side—as some members of the U.S. delegation stated off the record—became disappointed at the Palestinian position. With this disappointment, the old U.S. inclination to focus on the Syrian-Israeli negotiating track began to resurface. This new-old inclination coincided with the Israeli foreign minister's statement upon greeting Christopher at the airport to the effect that Israel is ready to advance in the talks with one party without waiting for simultaneous progress with the other parties. Here, the Israeli statesmen's renewed courtship of Syria in the wake of the Israeli military attack on Lebanon should not be ignored.

The Americans are renewing their pressure on the Palestinian side with Secretary Christopher's return. They are aware that the Palestinian problem is the only key to a comprehensive solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict. At the same time, Washington is dealing with the Palestinians removed from this reality and in an almost total disregard of the fact that they are a major partner in the peace talks with just demands and legitimate rights.

The Israeli side and its U.S. partner must realize that peace is a state of conviction. They should actually become convinced that realization of basic Palestinian demands within framework of the current talks is the only guarantee for progress in the peace process. Otherwise, the talks will go on without the achievement of any progress that can lead the parties to the aspired for peace.

'Abd-al-Shafi on Jerusalem Status, Syrian Talks

TA0608074493 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Telephone interview with Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the delegation to the bilateral negotiations, in Gaza by Gilat Levi and Ya'aqov Eylon—live, in English]

[Text] [Eylon] First of all I would like to ask you something that maybe is not related today: What can you tell us about the meeting between Mr. Sha'th from the PLO and Minister Yosi Sarid?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I did not read yet what has been written about this, so I really I cannot comment very well on it.

[Eylon] It has been written in the Israeli press that they met last week.

['Abd-al-Shafi] Yes? OK, if this is on the way of having direct negotiations with the PLO, I welcome this meeting.

[Eylon] Do you know anything about the meeting? Did it take place?

['Abd-al-Shafi] No, I do not know.

[Levi] Regarding the meeting yesterday between the Palestinian delegation and Warren Christopher and the Palestinian document that was given to Christopher, did it include any good news to the peace process, any certain good news?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Well, our position is still the same. We are emphasizing the basic issues that we have been emphasizing before: the question of Jerusalem, territorial jurisdiction, and the importance of the cessation of the settlement process. These have been the main, basic issues that we wanted to see that they are addressed by the Americans, and that was that.

[Levi] Did you agree to postpone the talks about Jerusalem, East Jerusalem?

['Abd-al-Shafi] You see, there are two aspects to the matter of Jerusalem. There is the question of the active settlement process that is going on, and there is a question of the final status of the city. Now, I think that we are asking that settlement process should stop, as we demand with respect to all of the occupied territories, and this is a matter that cannot be deferred to the final stage. Then, the status of the city—I mean is it an open city, divided or not divided, or whatever—could be deferred to the final stage.

[Eylon] There are reports that President al-Asad of Syria is now willing to reach agreements with Israel even before the Palestinian issue is settled. What is your comment to that?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I do not believe that these reports are accurate. I certainly think that all the Arab parties are interested in reaching an agreement, but at the same time, they also believe in the indivisibility of the peace process. And so I do not think that any party is going to go for a unilateral or a separate agreement. I am confident that this is true. So, while I welcome progress on all tracks, still I would consider it to be progress for the Palestinian track in the sense that of the indivisibility of the peace process.

[Eylon] What happens if Syria and Israel reach agreement on the Golan and the Palestinians are left out?

['Abd-al-Shafi] My understanding is that al-Asad is insisting about a totality of peace, and that means he will hinge the final agreement on withdrawal from all the occupied territories.

[Levi] Prime Minister Rabin yesterday defined the situation within the Palestinian delegation as a big mess. You probably do not agree with this definition, but how would you define it?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I certainly will not describe it as a big mess. You know there are some different points of view about issues, but I think we are maintaining a proper atmosphere of dialogue and all this, and I am glad it is so. I cannot deny that we have some divisional thoughts about some issues, but I think finally we can agree on something.

Denies Resignation

TA0508151993 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 5 Aug 93 pp 1, 8

[By Tahir Shuraytah]

[Text] Gaza—Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, has categorically denied rumors that circulated yesterday that he resigned as head of the delegation. He stressed that the rumors are totally unfounded.

Moreover, Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi ruled out the possibility that the PLO Executive Committee, which had appointed him, might dismiss him from leading the negotiating delegation.

In a related development, Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi affirmed that he will not be in the delegation that will meet today with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said that the U.S. secretary of state is aware of the Palestinian position and there is no point in meeting him if there is nothing new in the U.S. position.

Removal as Chief Delegate Reported

JN0508190793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1818 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, 5 Aug (INA)—The PLO has decided to relieve Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi of his post as head of the Palestinian delegation to the settlement negotiations.

An informed Palestinian source told INA correspondent in Cairo that the PLO decided to appoint Sa'ib 'Urayqat, deputy head of the delegation, as head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation. The source added that the PLO will announce the decision following U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the region.

Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi had earlier refused to meet with Christopher in Jerusalem due to lack of seriousness on part of the U.S. side, as he put it.

Sha'th Refuses To Comment on Meeting With Israelis

NC0508190093 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Telephone interview with Nabil Sha'th, PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser, in Cairo, by MBC correspondent Tawfiq Gazoulet in London on 5 August—recorded]

[Text] [Gazoulet] Israeli radio said today that Environmental Protection Minister Yosi Sarid met in Cairo with a ranking PLO official with the knowledge of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. It is known that the Knesset had previously banned any direct or indirect meetings with PLO leaders. I asked Nabil Sha'th, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's adviser, on how true this report is.

[Sha'th] In actual fact, I do not wish to comment on any rumors regarding this topic. I am not interested in confirming or denying these reports.

[Gazoulet] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, when do you believe the time will come to confirm or deny this meeting?

[Sha'th] I am not talking about any specific or particular meetings. I have nothing to confirm or deny regarding this recent meeting. However, I do say that meetings with Israelis, the last round of which started in 1988, have had as their permanent objective to explain the goals and rights of the Palestinian people and call for a just peace based on the recognition of these rights.

[Gazoulet] What is your evaluation of the tenth round of the peace talks, especially after the recent developments represented in the bombardment of southern Lebanon and the U.S. secretary of state's shuttle tour of the region?

[Sha'th] Our position is clear. We cannot accept the American paper presented to us on 30 June unless it is radically amended so that the texts of the sections on Jerusalem and the land are changed. In these negotiations, we are not willing to sacrifice one inch of our Palestinian land which was occupied in 1967.

Source Says Meeting Not Unprecedented

NC0508170893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1515 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, 5 Aug (MENA)—A responsible Palestinian source has stated that the meeting between Nabil Sha'th, the political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, and Israeli Environmental Protection Minister Yosi Sarid last week in Cairo was not the first of its kind and that meetings were held with him during the past five years within the framework of the dialogue between the Palestinians and Israelis.

The source said that Sarid, a member of the Meretz Party, had in the past met with PLO members. It added that the Sha'th-Sarid meeting was held with the prior knowledge of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

For his part, Sha'th has refused to confirm or deny this meeting, saying only that the Israelis have now to declare that meetings with PLO representatives have been held.

Egypt

Deputy Premier Denies Reported Assassination Attempt

NC0508173093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1715 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 5 Aug (MENA)—Dr. Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and land reclamation, denied a report put out today by a foreign news agency that he was the target of an assassination attempt today.

In a statement to MENA, Dr. Wali said that today he toured a number of governorates in north Egypt to inspect cotton, rice, corn, and other summer crops. [passage omitted]

Fifty-Three Islamic Militants To Stand Trial 9 Aug

NC0608074093 Paris AFP in English 0103 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, Aug 6 (AFP)—The first of 250 Islamic militants accused of conspiring to overthrow the government of President Husni Mubarak will go on trial before a military court here on Monday [9 August], the semi-official daily AL-AKHBAR reported in its Friday edition.

The trial will concern 53 of 250 arrested or charged since December, and who for the first time include several Egyptian women and 18 Palestinians.

The accused are charged with unlawfully possessing weapons and forming an illegal organisation going under the name of "Tala'i' al-Fath"—Vanguard of the Conquest—with purpose of overthrowing the present regime.

Eighteen of the accused are also charged in connection with the murders of two civilians in Cairo and the attempted murder of three police officers in 1990.

AL-AKHBAR said, citing the prosecution case that of the 53, six were accused of murder and 12 of attempted murder. Several could face the death penalty, it said.

Six of the 53 are still at large and will be tried in absentia.

At the end of last year Mubarak gave orders for Islamic militants to be tried by military courts for speedier and more dissuasive handling of the trials.

Since that time, 21 people have been sentenced to death by military courts and one by the High State Security Court. Fifteen of the sentences have been carried out since June.

Meanwhile, press reports said a cache containing a "large quantity" of explosives belonging to fundamentalist militants was discovered on Thursday near Shubra al-Khaymah north of Cairo. It said an unspecified number of militants had been arrested.

Al-Baz Interviewed on Fundamentalism

NC0508155093 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 28 Jul 93 p 15

[Interview with Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and political affairs director for the President's Office, by Thurayya 'Asi in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] ['Asi] In Egypt, there are various Islamic trends, some of which oppose violence and terrorism. You say you fight violence and terrorism, not Islamic trends. Why don't you allow the Muslim Brotherhood party to operate, even though it condemns acts of terrorism?

[Al-Baz] Recognition of a movement is one thing and fighting it is another. The Muslim Brotherhood movement emerged in 1927. It grew up and became a reform movement focusing on inculcating Islamic education. In the forties the movement's political dimension overwhelmed the educational dimension. It started practicing violence, killing two prime ministers, Ahmad Mahir and al-Nuqrashi Pasha. Ibrahim 'Abd-al-Hadi escaped an assassination attempt. Since then, we have entered a cycle of acts of violence carried out by factions that broke away from the Muslim Brotherhood, such as al-Takfir wa al-Hijrah [Repudiation and Renunciation] and others.

When the Muslim Brotherhood movement entered into a confrontation with the Egyptian revolution in 1953, the struggle moved in two directions: one to assassinate Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir and one to oppose the Egyptian revolution's policies. The struggle culminated in the al-Manshiyah incident [attempt to assassinate 'Abd-al-Nasir in Alexandria]. As a result of this incident, an official stand was adopted toward the Muslim Brotherhood after it had become a political party at a time when political parties were banned.

As for your remarks that the Muslim Brotherhood is a political movement that shuns violence and that we should recognize it, there are in fact constitutional, legal, and political restrictions. The Constitution bans the formation of a political party on a sectarian basis. We do not want to see a struggle raging between Christians and Muslims in Egypt. Any struggle of this sort will greatly harm Egypt's entity. Historically, we have lived in Egypt in complete harmony and cohesion between Christians and Muslims. Citizenship is the basis of any affiliation to Egypt. Religion is a creed that links the individual to his God and regulates his behavior toward others.

In its published theories, the Muslim Brotherhood does not advocate violence, but there are several fears:

Many of the individuals who have joined the extremist groups were former Muslim Brotherhood members. They advocate the same ideas of the movement, such as emphasis on Islamic rule. They claim that the existing laws are unfair because they are not based on the shari'ah

although the main source of legislation in Egypt is Islam. They focus on three points: The concept of government, the shari'ah, and who implements this shari'ah. They believe the Muslim Brotherhood will implement shari'ah. Afterward, the idea of implementing it by force emerged. In fact, a special organization called the Secret Organization of the Muslim Brotherhood was charged with using violence. It was accused of attempting to assassinate Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir.

Some believe the Muslim Brotherhood is not against the use of force even if it has not frankly called for it. There is also a conviction that there is an alliance between the various groups and the Muslim Brotherhood. The proof is that the Muslim Brotherhood opposed the acts of bombing. However, after the death sentences were passed, it published an article describing those convicted as heroes.

In short, I want to say that a short distance separates the Muslim Brotherhood from the extremist groups. The apparent disagreement between the two sides does not convince the Egyptian people. When some parties started forming a coalition against extremism and violence, the Muslim Brotherhood did not cooperate in this connection but put forward its own conditions.

['Asi] The struggle with the fundamentalist movements in Egypt witnessed a prominent event represented by the execution of a number of fundamentalists. This prompted one group to threaten President Mubarak personally. Do you believe that the situation has reached the stage of a military action to eradicate the movement? Will such a method end the crisis?

[Al-Baz] The matter is not one of a military answer to a danger. The general impression is that the movement's danger has begun to recede for several reasons:

1. Several leaders of this movement have been arrested.

2. There is now popular resentment of and action against the extremist movement since it has become apparent that it is targeting Egyptians in general and not only the government and its officials. In several aspects, the Egyptians feel that their lives, property, and livelihood are being threatened, especially in the tourism sector, which employs nearly 3 million people. There is also greater awareness as a result of media coverage, not only by the state newspapers but also by the opposition papers, such as AL-WAFD, AL-AHALI, and AL-AHRAR.

The important thing is that the situation is not as some imagine. The security threat is receding gradually. There must be a security, political, cultural, and educational confrontation. We have not reached this stage yet. However, the tendency is to intensify the treatment on the various levels. A phenomenon of this sort cannot be dealt with by security measures alone.

['Asi] How do you explain the execution of seven persons accused only of attempting to assassinate the information minister?

[Al-Baz] Some believe the military courts are applying a special military law while in fact they are implementing the penal code, the ordinary criminal law. If someone tried to assassinate someone and then stopped his attempt voluntarily, this would have been different, but by proceeding in the act there was planning, criminal agreement, and then implementation. Under the law, in this case he is treated the same as a murderer.

['Asi] The issue of fundamentalism in Egypt is part of a movement in the Arab world and the Islamic world alike. How can you explain this phenomenon under the new world circumstances?

[Al-Baz] It is not a simple phenomenon but indeed a complicated one. We cannot attribute it to one cause, as this would make our explanation wrong. There are many causes that generated this phenomenon, including the economic crisis, which has started to tighten the noose on specific sectors of nations, including in the Islamic world.

A population explosion has occurred in the Third World, including in the Islamic world. The sectors whose population always increase are the deprived ones, which means an increase in the number of the deprived, a rise in the unemployment rate, and an increase of indignation and loss of hope.

There were two movements in the Arab region that could have warded off the anger: The pan-Arab movement and the leftist movement. These two political movements have absorbed a large number of youths. However, the pan-Arab movement and the Marxist ideology movement were subdued, paving the way for the fundamentalist movements to absorb the sectors that were angry and desperate. Certain leaders of these movements exploited the Islamic religion in Islamic societies. We all believe that Islam is a basic part of the identity and affiliation.

There is another factor: Many people reject the Western system, believing that it cannot set up a righteous society. Certain groups argued that democracy, dialogue, and human rights are merely theoretical approaches. Those groups started to present the defects affecting Western society, such as separations, loss of affiliation, perversion, and lack of morals. The Western man, in those groups' views, is not normal.

Under the circumstances, Islam was the alternative although it is an existing alternative and has nothing to do with the Western alternative or the Western system. Some intellectuals had liberal ideas. The people felt the emptiness of these slogans, specifically democracy after having discovered the lack of devotion to the political slogans as in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Hence, this sector of people started to feel that anything coming from the West is pure hypocrisy.

Furthermore, a number of Muslims, who were militarily trained in Afghanistan in urban warfare were convinced of the importance of these terrorist actions that they carried out against the Soviet officers, believing that the battle there was one of Islamic jihad.

No doubt, some of these organizations were assisted by the Islamic revolution in Iran. I believe that it is possible to set up a government based on the Islamic revolution in any Islamic country. This government can continue to advocate acts of violence as it did there. The Iranian Government has regrettably started contacting and supporting some elements.

['Asi] The results of the struggle against fundamentalism assumed various forms. Beginning with the crisis with Iran and what went with it—accusations and counteraccusations—and ending with accusations leveled against the United States charging it with encouraging some fundamentalist movements. The latest outcome of this struggle is represented in the case of Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al- Rahman. How could you assess relations with the United States in light of recent developments?

[Al-Baz] The struggle is not against the fundamentalist movement. Had this movement advocated culture and heritage we would not have had any objection. But we had to adopt a stand against the movement that advocates the use of violence and force and encourages acts of terrorism as a way to achieve its objective of overthrowing the regime.

The struggle, which started in various parts of the Islamic world, is not the same. The movement in Algeria differs from that in Egypt, or in Jordan, Pakistan, or Iran. Although these movements have a common denominator, there are differences. When this movement spread in some Arab countries, the West was perplexed and failed to deal with it as it should. This is due to its fears that the movement could be anti-Western. The West started to view Islam as a danger instead of viewing it as a religious reform movement. This generated various kinds of dialogues about Islam in Western circles, in universities, and in the decision-making centers. The views were divided into two parts: One part sees it as a danger while the other does not see it as such.

However, under this Western confusion, there was no way to understand the objective of the fundamentalist movement. Some people focused on Iran and from there they used the fundamentalism expression to denote the Islamic movements in the Arab world. Hence, the fundamentalist Islamic movement has become a movement of violence and extremism. They thought that all the Islamic countries should be viewed like Iran without considering the characteristics of each Islamic country. They forgot that the Islamic movements were the only opposition force under a revolutionary leadership against the shah.

When it comes to Egypt, the Islamic movements are divided into Sunni and Shiite. They are not organized in the structural sense. Islamic movements in Egypt are linked to the honorable al-Azhar, while Iranian movements are affiliated with the Shiite authority. The moral ties exist despite all the differences. The triumph of the revolution in Iran led some people to believe that it was a triumph for Islam, because they are Muslims and could derive their methods from the Iranian Islamic revolution, although they might be terrorist at times. In some interpretations, the Koran calls for jihad, but within certain limits. The larger part of Koran and Islamic heritage calls for fraternity, understanding, and dialogue. The problem is that some people in the West saw Islam as represented in the Iranian revolution; they thought that Islam knew nothing but fanaticism and terrorism against the West. They based this belief on the slogans they heard from Khomeyni's revolution, particularly the one describing the West as the great Satan.

On the other side, some Western elements believed in the need to make contacts with these movements, despite their fanaticism, with a view to absorbing them. The United States itself regretted its failure to establish contact with the Khomeyni movement. Some people at the intelligence level began to call for making contact with these movements to understand them, and accordingly, establish cooperation with them. This cooperation was indeed established among some fundamentalist movements, the West, and the CIA in Afghanistan. Some Western states dealt with that movement out of the conviction that it would certainly triumph and upset the balance of power. Some fundamentalists accepted that reality. Statements by people like Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman enchanted the West. He flirted with the Westerners minds when he said that a movement like his was not hostile to the West. "Had I been hostile to the West, I would not have come here," he said. He praised freedom and democracy in the United States and others. He used to say that when he was still in Egypt.

A series of events led many Egyptians to ask: How was 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman granted an entry visa to the United States? How could there be a tendency to grant him permanent residence? And how could he be permitted to move freely from one mosque to another to urge violence against Arab states?

These questions confused many about the American stand. Did the United States cooperate with 'Abd-al-Rahman or did it only harbor him to shield itself against fundamentalist movements? Some American elements, particularly in the CIA, might have been convinced of the possibility of establishing cooperation with fundamentalist movements or of maintaining channels of communication with them. The Western media, for its part, helped give the impression that these movements almost controlled authority in some countries. They overestimated the fundamentalists' authority and influence. Some press speculation exaggerated the power of these movements and demanded that contact be established with them. This raised questions among the Egyptians about the reality of the American policy and vision of these movements.

In fact one cannot believe that the United States welcomes the growth of fundamentalist movements, because they will certainly destabilize the region and subsequently harm American interests. If we take a

country like Egypt, we will find that foreign states do not want to see it play a political role at the regional and world levels. This happened twice in history, once during Muhammad 'Ali's time and again under 'Abd-al-Nasir.

We interpret the stand assumed by the United States and some Western politicians and deal with them according to that vision.

['Asi] We now come to the issue of Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman and the U.S. stand that refuses to hand him over to the Egyptian authorities. Could this be interpreted as evidence of U.S. involvement in current incidents in Egypt or does it reflect a desire to further aggravate matters and hence enable the U.S. Administration to impose greater domination over Egypt?

[Al-Baz] First of all, I would like to answer the last part of the question. Neither America nor any other country dominates Egypt; Egypt would not let anyone dominate it. History shows that Egypt had different views from the United States on many issues.

As for the first part of the question, concerning Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, the United States has not refused to hand him over to Egypt. What happened was that Egypt only demanded his extradition three weeks ago. Until recently, there was no judicial ruling or warrant for 'Abd-al-Rahman's arrest for testimony in any of the cases. When the Supreme State Security Court issued a warrant for his arrest, we demanded his extradition. American extradition procedures are very complicated. The government considers the extradition request to check its legal aspects and then refers it to a specialized federal court. The U.S. Administration approves of this. It is preparing the legal documents for referral to the court. It is not true that they refused to hand him over.

As I have said before, some U.S. circles think it is necessary to maintain channels of communication with all the elements in the country. There are parties that hold contacts with the opposition and with the Muslim Brotherhood to explore their aims, intentions, and views. Some of the leaders of these movements grab the imagination of the United States. It is possible to see in this policy a degree of opportunism. The Americans and Westerners proceed in their policy from the premise of safeguarding their interests now and in the future. We are not interested in this, and believe that so long as the intention is to explore and learn the various views, this matter has no value.

This is the official Egyptian position. There is a difference between this official view and the popular view that sees in the U.S. position certain opportunism. We do not want the U.S. Administration to support the Egyptian Government or regime. What we are interested in is support for Egypt's general goals to safeguard national security in the region and the basic Egyptian interests. Therefore, we are not ready now to pawn our will and freedom to the United States. Do we have good relations? Of course. But Egypt is not a tool of U.S. policy or an ally of the United States. To be allies, the national aims must be the same, and they are not. The United States is not Arab or Middle Eastern. The convergence points between us are limited, and we cooperate on them—such as the peace process and development. We find that the national interest demands that we differ on some issues, such as the issues of banning the production, importation, development, and use of chemical weapons, because this is liable to upset Arab national security and the required balance among all the parties in the region. We refused to sign the treaty, adopting the appropriate position in line with our national interest. Our position was not welcomed by the Western states. This means that our two policies are not compatible. This is natural. I recall a remark by George Washington [as published] in which he said "it is wrong to assume that there will be identity of interests and policies between the United States and any other state."

['Asi] There are some who say that the U.S. position on the recent developments in Egypt shows a weakness in U.S. confidence in the regime, which did not do what it had to do, and that the situation has to a large extent become similar to that which existed during the last stages of al-Sadat's life. Do you agree?

[Al-Baz] This is not true. Egypt does not allow roles to be planned for it. Perhaps there are states that imagine that Egypt is carrying out a certain role or policy. The United States, Libya, India, or China may perhaps think so. It does not mean there is a role for the United States just because we think so. The same with regard to Egypt. The United States has no right to chart a role for us and to imagine a specific policy for us and expect us to implement it. Egypt does not allow others to chart its role. What Egypt has done in the past years and since the start of the peace process with Israel was based on Egyptian policy. Had all the Arabs not been convinced about the idea of peace, based on UN Resolutions 242 and 338, we would not have moved in this direction.

What is important is that we did not see in the United States anything to indicate that it is trying to chart our role. We have often turned down U.S. requests when it tried to pressure Egypt. I reject the statement that the United States has defined our role. From the beginning we had our own view, which could have been identical to the U.S. view or not. We are a nonaligned Arab, Muslim, Middle Eastern, and African state. We have our own policy. The United States will not know the Middle East as we do. We defend Arab interests and not U.S. interests. Some might think that because the regime in Egypt is patriotic, it could cause them trouble as they seek to impose their influence in the region. So they try to draw alternatives. This is what is being said with regard to the United States. This idea is naive and cannot deceive anyone. No foreign country, whatever it may be, can establish alternatives. How can they do that in Egypt? The Egyptian arena is complex. If the United States was trying to bring an alternative regime or to encourage such a change, I say that there is no sign to indicate such intentions. If the United States tries to do that, it will be

disappointed. The sweeping majority of the Egyptian people reject the idea of foreign influence.

['Asi] You may not overthrow a regime but change a president?

[Al-Baz] You cannot change a president or even the director of a department in the Egyptian Government. At any rate, this is not in the interest of the Americans.

['Asi] There were some reports that the Americans have advised you not to nominate President Mubarak for a third term. Is this true?

[Al-Baz] Absolutely not. They have not advised even a man on the street. They may have an opinion in this regard, but what is the value of such an opinion and who will it influence? The Egyptians view the issue of renewing the president's term from a domestic angle. My feeling is that the majority of the Egyptian people think that their interest will be served by the continuation of a stable regime until the existing obstacles and difficulties in the economic reform process are overcome in preparation for the 21st century, and in safeguarding Egyptian national security against outside dangers.

PLO's Qaddumi Arrives, Comments on Status of Talks

NC0508185293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1806 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Text] Cairo, 5 Aug (MENA)—Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's Political Department, arrived in Cairo this afternoon on a short visit to Egypt.

Qaddumi described his visit as an opportunity to have talks with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa about current developments in the Middle East before Musa's departure for Belgium.

He said: The basic issue that concerns us all is the political settlement of the Middle East problem and the obstacles it is facing, particularly after Israel's attack on south Lebanon. These attacks destroyed the possibility of returning to the settlement and negotiations until after tangible progress is made by the United States and Israel toward the peace process. This is so because such actions by Israel indicate that it does not want peace and does not want to make any progress.

He added: We need a clear and declared U.S. commitment based on the principal idea on which the negotiations are based, namely international legitimacy, land for peace, and the Palestinian people's political and legitimate rights.

Faruq Qaddumi went on to say in his statement that Israel does not want peace and that the United States has not made enough effort to pressure it in order to give impetus to the peace process, which he regards as a waste of time.

In this respect, he asked: How can the peace process be pushed forward when the international sponsor is not exerting effort and putting pressure on Israel, which occupies Arab territories? He said that the question now is whether Israel is ready to set a date for the withdrawal and whether the United States is willing to give Israel the signal to withdraw and set up a timetable for the withdrawal.

Regarding the UN resolution on the return of the deportees from south Lebanon and Israel's refusal to implement it, the PLO official that this is part of the whole problem and further evidence that Israel does not want peace.

Editorial Asks Christopher for Action, Not Words

NC0508173793 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 3 Aug 93 p 1

[Editorial: "Warren Christopher: We Want Actions; We Are Fed Up With Words"]

[Text] We do not know whether to believe what the United States says about peace and the importance of establishing it in the region or to believe events confirming that the United States says what it does not intend. We have heard words but have not seen action!!

What is certain now is the fact that the peace process is stalling and is facing mountainous obstacles. True, we are not expecting quick peace and do not expect the accumulations of dozens of years to be solved in days, but we want to see noticeable progress in the peace process, unlike what we are seeing now.

We are insisting on this because the negotiations have taken a long time and stalled even when they started at the end of October 1991 in Madrid. We then said that the region was on the verge of an explosion and that speeding up the negotiations and removing obstacles would avert the flame from the fuel. But regrettably we are still at the start of the road, and problems and details are still impeding the process.

We recognize that the United States is now the leader of the world following the collapse of the Soviet Union, which was a partner in the process. But we ask: Why this U.S. laziness and closed eyes? Some might say that the U.S. elections took a whole year during which the United States was preoccupied with the presidential elections. But since then we have not seen any real U.S. support for the peace process.

We undoubtedly welcome U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the region. But we ask: Does Christopher have full support for giving impetus to the peace process? Can he remove the obstacles and take the negotiations into the real world that will lead to a complete relaxation, especially with Syria and the Golan issue, with the PLO and autonomy, with Jordan and a solution for the borders' problem, and with Lebanon, though the recent Israeli aggression has reopened the

wounds and added heaps of salt to them and thus increased the pain and almost dashed hopes?

We want to hear from the United States—through its secretary of state during his current tour—that it is serious in the peace process and that it really wants peace.

The region heard honeyed and big words for 50 years. But we reject words now. What great action does Christopher have in his pocket?

Musa Comments on Importance of Arab Reconciliation

NC0508173693 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 2 Aug 93 p 1

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has affirmed the importance of restoring Arab reconciliation and clearing the Arab atmosphere to get out of the embarrassing situation the Arab nation is going through and confront the challenges it is facing.

He mentioned the initiative Egypt proposed before the Arab League Council last September to prepare a study on the concept of Arab security. In a meeting with a delegation of officers from the Royal Jordanian Military Academy currently visiting Cairo, the minister explained Egypt's stand on the developments in the region and the efforts exerted to push the peace process forward.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Said Planning To Step Down

NC0608064093 Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 2 Aug 93 p 1

[Text] International news agencies and press have lately disclosed a plan by Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to abdicate authority in Libya. Al-Qadhdhafi is said to have handpicked a leadership council of five men that will assume power as of 15 August.

The new leadership council will comprise Foreign Secretary 'Umar al-Muntasir; General Education Secretary Dr. al-Madani Abu-al-Tuwayrat; Foreign Information Official 'Ali Marya; 'Ali al-Hudayri, former Libyan delegate to the United Nations; and Culture Secretary Rajab Budabbus.

Al-Qadhdhafi will announce his abdication at the People's Congress due to be held in mid August.

This development follows a decision by Major 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud to retire from politics and public life following the recent trip of Libyan pilgrims to Israel and his disagreement with al-Qadhdhafi's policies.

Kuwait

Information Minister on Relations With Iraq, Iran

NC0508150393 Cairo SABAH AL-KHAYR in Arabic 5 Aug 93 pp 7-12

[Interview with Information Minister Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah by Mufid Fawzi in Kuwait on 2 August; italicized words as published]

[Excerpt] [Fawzi] Do you believe that today (2 August 1993) Kuwait is, security-wise, stronger than it was before the Iraqi invasion?

[Al-Sabah] I believe it is more aware now. Kuwait was living an illusion. Yes, brother, we were living an illusion of security and stability. Not a single Kuwaiti citizen had ever thought that he would be subjected to what he had to go through at the hands of an Arab brother and an Arab country. There is now in Kuwait awareness, caution, and suspicion of others' intentions. This, in my view, will lead to better domestic and foreign security than before the invasion.

[Fawzi] What is the Kuwaiti information minister's comment on the U.S. adage: We are defending *with you* and not *on your behalf*?

[Al-Sabah] This adage presents no conflict because the stand taken by the United States, the fraternal Arab countries, and the allied countries was one of defending with us and not on our behalf. Kuwait's primary responsibility is the defense of its territories and territorial integrity in cooperation with the brothers in the Arab world and our allies in the world. The agreements between us and allied countries such as the United States, the United Kingdom, and France speak about "defense cooperation" with Kuwait. But some brothers are calling them security agreements. The cooperation with the Kuwaiti Armed Forces and the U.S., British, or French forces involves training, joint exercises, and armaments. In brief, the responsibility for defending Kuwait's borders lies with the Kuwaiti Armed Forces and people in cooperation with others.

[Fawzi] Your Excellency has very close ties with the United States. How are these ties used to benefit Kuwait?

[Al-Sabah] I try to use ties to benefit Kuwait as much as possible. Relations with the United States are very close. During a critical period, we established relations with U.S. establishments and individuals in addition to the then-U.S. administration. The United States undoubtedly had a positive role in the liberation of Kuwait. We will continue our endeavors with the present administration at the same level to maintain these relations at the level we desire.

[Fawzi] Is there a state of caution with Iraq? Is this creating tension in Kuwait?

[Al-Sabah] Our stand toward Iraq is clear. What exists between us and Iraq now is a cease-fire and not peace. Resolution 687 is a cease-fire resolution, from the legal point of view. We will not move to another relationship until Iraq complies with all the Security Council resolutions. In the present circumstances, the continued sanctions against Iraq, the inspections to which the Iraqi regime is subjected, maintaining the no-fly zones over south and north Iraq, and the constant monitoring of Iraq do not make me expect a direct threat as of 2 August [1990]. The danger can be regarded as relatively distant in view of the defense cooperation agreements between us and the allied, friendly, and fraternal countries. What is worrying some people is what will happen if this regime is changed; who will inherit this regime when the sanctions are lifted after the regime has been changed; and what regime we will have to deal with after Saddam Husayn. Of course, you know that Iraq is resorting to acts of sabotage inside Kuwait in order to undermine security and stability, and these are always on our minds. The attempt to assassinate former President George Bush was expected. Additionally, Iraq cannot repeat the 2 August action, not militarily, psychologically, or morally. The Iraqi regime is now seeking to stay in power. You might know that the regime does not trust the Army. It is enough to know that the Republican Guards have been removed from Baghdad because they are not trusted.

[Fawzi] What is Kuwait's official stand vis-a-vis Iran?

[Al-Sabah] We respect and esteem Iran as a neighboring, friendly, and Islamic country. We are seeking more cooperation with it in all spheres. We are living in the same region and have the same responsibilities. We hope that Iran shares with us the same feelings and tendency.

[Fawzi] What are Kuwait's conditions for Arab reconciliation and what are the guarantees these conditions will be implemented?

[Al-Sabah] Kuwait responded to the call for reconciliation that the Arab League secretary general made. However, we had some comments on this call, which were expressed by the first deputy prime minister and the foreign minister in his statement before the National Assembly. He stipulated conditions because Kuwait was not the aggressor nation. Kuwait was the victim and it still has some unresolved problems, such as the issue of POW's, which the Iraqi regime is using as hostages; the issue of Iraq's refusal to recognized the resolution demarcating the borders between Iraq and Kuwait; the issue of compensation; and the preeminent issue of those countries that supported Iraq when its regime occupied Kuwait, usurping and displacing its people. I say: These countries have not yet condemned this aggression. I repeat: These countries have not yet condemned the aggression against Kuwait. This talk about Arab reconciliation must start from these springboards. Kuwait wants to proceed on the basis of the good intentions of those regimes that supported the Iraqi regime, not only statements, speeches, and empty talk. These countries must crystallize their good intentions in positive steps to

support Kuwait's stand in the Arab and international arenas to prove to the Kuwaiti people, their representatives in the National Assembly, the press, and the government that their intentions to return waters to their natural course and to reconcile the Arab countries are sincere. Pressure must be put on the Iraqi regime to release the prisoners. Iraq must recognize the Kuwaiti borders drawn by the United Nations. There can be no reconciliation before all this happens. Nor can there be any argument over these points. Kuwait must discuss this policy with all its brothers and allies. We do not believe in the policy of letting bygones be bygones, especially when the issue of good intentions is still pending.

The Kuwaiti people are still suffering from deep wounds, and they will never be convinced by the policy of letting bygones be bygones before Kuwait's legitimate, legal, and crystal clear conditions are met.

[Fawzi] Do you believe that the Iraqi regime is holding the POW's as hostages to use them as a trump card at a future date?

[Al-Sabah] Yes. The Iraqi regime's precedents confirm this point. When Iran accepted the cease-fire in 1988 and one of the cease-fire conditions was to release the prisoners of both sides, Iraq continued to hold the Iranian prisoners in clear violation of the cease-fire agreement. The Iraqi regime claimed that there were no Iranian prisoners, but the international community did not believe Iraq's claims, especially after it invaded Kuwait. Then it became clear that there were thousands of Iranian prisoners, which the Iraqi regime released in an attempt to win Iranian support. This is how the Iraqi regime operates: stalling, lying, and biding time.

[Fawzi] How will international pressure be applied to the Iraqi regime to force it to recognize the borders between Kuwait and Iraq?

[Al-Sabah] This issue is now in the hands of the United Nations, after Iraq's bargaining and vituperations. I am sorry to say that Kuwait has tried since its independence to implement the 1932 agreements with Iraq. Successive Iraqi regimes refused to implement them and used the excuse of the absence of border demarcation as a card against Kuwait. Then the invasion and occupation took place. Now all countries are taking part in this issue and from a legal point of view the Security Council resolutions are binding on everyone. [passage omitted]

AL-THAWRAH Says Kuwait Isolated From Arab Nation

JN0608092593 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0710 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Aug (INA)—AL-THAWRAH has asserted that the devilish inclination of the ruling clique imposed on Kuwait to break away from the Arab nation and ally itself with colonialist states, primarily the United States, reflects the magnitude of isolation this clique is suffering both domestically and on the Arab scene.

In an article today headlined "Kuwait Breaking Away From the Arab Nation," the paper says this inclination revealed an internal conflict besetting the ruling clique imposed on Kuwait, finally driving them to throw themselves for good into the lap of their American masters, having obeyed all their orders and done them every possible service as hired watchmen over the oil wells.

The paper says this new evil inclination comes at a time when the ruling clique in Kuwait has no mask left to hide behind. This substantiates Iraq's sound view of the subversive role played by this agent clique against Iraq and the Arab nation.

The paper denounces an article published recently by one of the al-Sabah family papers calling for joining the American "commonwealth" and breaking away from the Arab nation. This confirms the isolation of this clique and the fact that it adopts any anti-Arab policy. This clique has chosen to side with the enemies of the nation and plunderers of its wealth, thus expressing its future intentions that reflect a grudge against all national, pan-Arab, and honorable values.

Letter to UN Protests Iranian 'Acts of Aggression'

JN0608112193 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] Iraq has asked the UN secretary general to intervene to prevent Iran from repeating its aggressive acts against Iraqi territory, which conflict with the rules of international law and the UN Charter.

A letter sent by Iraq's UN permanent representative to the UN secretary general said Iraq fully reserves the right to reply to these acts by using any appropriate means to safeguard its legitimate rights and interests.

The letter asserted that Iran's acts of aggression represent a flagrant violation of Iraq's sovereignty and blatant intervention in its domestic affairs.

The following is the text of the letter:

A letter dated 29 July 1993 addressed to the UN secretary general from Iraq's permanent UN representative.

Upon instructions from my government and in addition to my earlier letters, the last of which is No. 1/6/363 dated 27 July 1993, I would like to inform you that the Iranian Armed Forces committed the following acts of aggression against the northern region of Iraq between 19-25 July 1993:

1. Last week, some areas in Qal'at Dizah and Banjwin came under sporadic, random artillery shelling, the last incident of which was on 20 July when the villages of (Sayyid Ahmadan), (Shiwizrah), (Kuwitan), and the northeast part of Qal'at Dizah came under shelling. Four houses were burned and two residents were injured.

2. On the night of 19-20 July 1993, an Iranian force, estimated at two infantry brigades with artillery support, entered the Kanaru border region, north of Choarta, and the Sarku region, north of Choarta.

3. On 22 July, another Iranian force entered the Banjwin region and set up bases for it in (Kani Banka), west of the village of Banjwin.

4. On 22 July, Iranian aircraft raided the regions of (Nowtaq), western Darbandikhan, and (Zayr Kyuz) on al Sulaymaniyah road.

5. On 24 July, Qal'at Dizah once again came under sporadic, random shelling.

6. On the night of 24-25 July, the region of (Nowtaq) also came under shelling.

7. On 24-25 July, the border region of 'Anah, northern Choarta, came under shelling.

8. On 25 July, an Iranian force estimated at 200 armed men entered the (Kuflan) border region near Banjwin and opened fire on village residents, killing one person.

The Government of the Republic of Iraq strongly protests these fresh Iranian acts of aggression, which represent a flagrant violation of Iraq's sovereignty and blatant intervention in its domestic affairs. It also condemns the Iranian regime's insistence on violating Security Council Resolution 598.

While requesting Your Excellency to intervene to prevent the Iranian side from repeating these acts of aggression, which conflict with the rules of international law and the UN Charter, the Government of the Republic of Iraq fully reserves its right to reply to these acts by using any appropriate means to safeguard Iraq's legitimate rights and interests.

I would be grateful if you would ensure the circulation of this letter as a Security Council document.

Signed: Ambassador Nizar Hamdun, Iraq's permanent representative.

Minister of Peshmerga Affairs on Iranian Attack

NC0508200093 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Text] Mr. Jabbar Farman, minister of peshmerga affairs in the Kurdistan region's government, has made a statement to the newspaper KURDISTAN NEWS on the recent attacks the Iranian forces carried out on the border areas and the position of the Kurdistan region's government regarding them. He said: The Islamic Republic of Iran's forces shelled with artillery during the past three months Iraqi Kurdistan's territory over 60 times. They crossed the borders scores of times. As a result of the shelling, 35 villages of those that were rebuilt after the uprising were burned and destroyed; 25 citizens were either killed or injured; scores of farms and fields were burned; over 10,000 citizens were rendered homeless; and a number of citizens were taken prisoner by Iran. These latter measures can be considered a kind of terrorism because those held are innocent citizens who are [word indistinct].

The minister of peshmerga affairs adds: As a government, we do not support escalating the situation. We asked the National Unified Iraqi Congress to announce its position and condemn the Iranian attacks. We also asked them to send a delegation to Iran during the coming few days to find a way to resolve this issue.

Christopher Returns for Second Round of Meetings

Beilin on Latest Developments

TA0508163493 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin by Mikha Friedman and Gilat Levi—live]

[Text] [Friedman] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher brought back certain good news [preceding three words in English] from Damascus. Although that description sounds good, it is a bit vague both in English and Hebrew. Could you help us understand, even in the most general terms, the nature of what appears to be an imminent breakthrough in the previously stuck negotiations with Syria?

[Beilin] It cannot be described as a breakthrough. What is important here is Syria's outspoken readiness for greater U.S. involvement. In my opinion, the fact that the secretary of state is returning to Damascus tomorrow is the most important development here. In other words, not every meeting will supply headlines. However, the very fact that he is willing to travel between the region's capitals, can, in my opinion, almost guarantee an agreement because I feel that the common denominator is very broad, and all we need is a third party to help bring our already similar positions even closer.

[Levi] So Christopher has not yet returned from Syria with certain answers to Israel's questions to President al-Asad?

[Beilin] I cannot say that Mr. Christopher returned with answers to some kind of questionnaire. Things are far from this. However, he definitely came back with the impression that Syria is seriously interested in reaching an arrangement. Look at Syria's reactions: Although they leveled a great deal of criticism against Israel, the very fact that Syria affirmed that the United States had succeeded in putting out the fire in Lebanon means that they are prepared to tell the Syrian public that Damascus now intends to take an important step toward peace with Israel with American assistance. That in itself, coming as a public Syrian announcement, is very important.

[Friedman] It was said yesterday in Jerusalem that Syria's offer of full peace in return for full withdrawal was merely the reiteration of an old principle that evinced no excitement in Israel even when voiced for the first time. Where are the good news then?

[Beilin] First of all, old is a relative term. I would not call it old. Syria's readiness to achieve peace is a new position which emerged mainly after the collapse of the Soviet Union and following the Madrid conference. The statements issued in recent months about a peace agreement were never made in the past. Any such declaration by Syria is undoubtedly important. Syria knows we have our own positions. Yet, if we say that the depth of withdrawal will correspond to the scope of peace, and the Syrians express readiness to reach peace—albeit without clarifying the nature of the latter—then this means that we indeed share a broad common denominator, and apparently Christopher also feels that he can use this relatively stable base, which, I hope, will permit him to return to the Middle East in the near future to exploit the momentum generated during in his visit.

[Levi] Both Christopher and Israeli sources said that the peace process had been salvaged. Does that mean that the peace process was already on the verge of collapse?

[Beilin] I am not sure. First of all, I am glad that people now feel that the process has been salvaged, so I do not concern myself with the past. I am not sure that the situation in the very recent past could have been described as a collapse of the talks. One certainly could say, however, that the ninth and 10th rounds of talks, the last two rounds of talks following the breakthrough last September, when we announced our readiness in principle for a withdrawal on the Golan Heights, were very slow, and some kind of push was needed to move things forward. I realize that Christopher's visit was that catalyst.

[Friedman] Was the meeting between Environment Minister Yosi Sarid, Knesset Member [MK] Dedi Zucker, and Yasir 'Arafat's adviser Nabil Sha'th the private initiative of two courageous Israeli politicians or an intentional and authorized Israeli overture toward PLO-Tunis?

[Beilin] I really do not know.

[Friedman] You do not know anything about this meeting?

[Beilin] No.

[Friedman] Because the report came from David Sultan, the Israeli ambassador in Cairo, who is employed by your ministry?

[Beilin] Yes, but he also did not know about it. He did not report about what happened in the meeting. He must have heard people talking about it in Cairo and when he asked us we told him we had no information on it.

[Levi] Our correspondent, for example, told us that Prime Minister Rabin had prior knowledge of the meeting and was briefed about it. The fact is that the prime minister did not take any measures to prevent the two men from leaving for the meeting. What does that mean?

[Beilin] That means that apparently we have entered a new chapter in our history, which began with the repeal of the ban against holding meetings with PLO officials and also other issues. Perhaps the new chapter opened even earlier with the famous handshake between Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi and Yitzhaq Shamir at the Madrid conference. Therefore, I do not jump out of my chair with surprise when I hear such reports. If this is true, and up to this very moment I have no confirmation of that, it is part of what I regard as a natural development.

[Friedman] What would cause you real surprise. A public meeting of Yitzhaq Rabin and Shim'on Peres with Yasir 'Arafat, Abu- Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], or someone of their caliber in the PLO?

[Beilin] Look, I do not know if that is what is necessary in order to promote the negotiations at this stage. In the past, I have expressed my position with regard to the possibility of negotiations between Israel and the PLO. I think that the Yariv-Shemtov formula [presented by two ministers to then prime minister Golda Meir in 1974], which is almost a quarter of a century old, was right at the time and still remains valid today. If we adhere to the basis of this formula, then changes in the PLO will lead to official meetings, and that will certainly constitute a positive process; however, right now, I do not regard that as the real problem between ourselves and the Palestinians.

[Friedman] If I am correct, the Yariv-Shemtov formula spoke of a readiness to negotiate with any Palestinian element that will recognize the State of Israel.

[Beilin] There was more than that. It also mentioned the need to first of all halt terrorism and to amend the Palestinian Covenant.

[Friedman] And as things stand now, the PLO does not fit the bill.

[Beilin] That is correct.

[Friedman] Thank you very much, Deputy Foreign Minister Beilin.

Rabin Sees 'Change for the Better'

TA0508152493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Text] Following his meetings with Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says there is a change for the better compared to the last few rounds of peace talks and previous American shuttles in the region. According to Mr. Rabin, Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan are evincing a serious attitude to the peace process. Consequently, it is possible that Israel will have to make difficult decisions. Rabin noted, however, that we are dealing with long-term processes.

Referring to the talks with the Palestinians, the prime minister stated that the Palestinians cannot get their act together. It is impossible to know with whom one is talking to, and he has never seen such an unstable and unserious element. Our party affairs correspondent Sheli Yehimovich reports that Mr. Rabin spoke in a session of the Labor bureau.

Gur Says Progress Possible

TA0508170693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Telephone interview with Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur by 'Amiqam Rothman—live]

[Excerpt] [Rothman] Good evening to Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur.

[Gur] Good evening.

[Rothman] Judging by the comments of the prime minister today, we are witnessing a new dynamic, new hope in the wake of Christopher's present visit. Is this your impression as well?

[Gur] Even though we cannot pinpoint any particular fact or commitment, it is possible to sense a positive change, and every such change is significant.

[Rothman] What do you mean by change?

[Gur] We do not know yet what the change is, and this is why I cannot point to any particular word or commitment. It appears, however, that the Americans received the impression that the Syrians, or al-Asad, will be ready or are already ready—we do not have the details—to move toward the Israeli concept and to make room for progress in the negotiations.

[Rothman] Perhaps this is merely mediation tactics meant to raise the level of expectations?

[Gur] I am not personally acquainted with Secretary of State Christopher, but all those who know him and who have worked with him are impressed by his honesty. I can tell you that based on what I saw in today's meeting—and I am emphasizing that I personally saw this—the discussions are absolutely frank. There are no maneuvers here, no attempts to expose us to dangers. Just as one must avoid overconfidence, it is necessary to avoid over suspiciousness. If indeed an impression is formed that progress can be made, we must receive this at face value, because this will permit us to treat things more positively and openly. [passage omitted]

Christopher Receives PLO Draft Document

TA0508181293 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1730 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Text] Secretary of State Warren Christopher this evening received from the Palestinian delegation members their version of the draft joint document of principles. Our correspondent Golan Yokhpaz reports that the secretary of state expressed great satisfaction on the reception of the draft, but said that it will take some time before the U.S. peace team can study this document.

Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokesman of the Palestinian delegation, said after the meeting that the draft Palestinian document of principles was formulated in accordance with the directives of the leadership of PLO-Tunis. The draft deals with possible arrangements on the issues of Jerusalem and the autonomy's territorial jurisdiction.

'Ashrawi: Direct Talks With PLO Needed

TA0508202293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Text] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi says that in the meeting with Warren Christopher this evening, the issue of Gaza and Jericho First was raised. She added, however, that the members of the Palestinian delegation insisted that this must be discussed only in the framework of a comprehensive solution. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that reacting to Prime Minister Rabin's remarks on the internal rifts and controversies within the Palestinian delegation, Dr. 'Ashrawi said it is time Israel holds direct and open negotiations with the PLO leadership.

Referring to the contents of the document that the Palestinians submitted to Warren Christopher, 'Ashrawi said it deals with the two main problems: Jerusalem within the autonomy's jurisdiction, and the demand to consider the territories as occupied territories, rather than disputed territories, as Israel demands.

Details Given on 5 Aug Meetings

TA0508192993

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 5 August reports extensively on Secretary of State Warren Christopher's meetings today with the Israeli political echelon, the Palestinians, and Jordan's King Husayn. The report opens with anchorman Daniyel Pe'er's remark that "an accelerated negotiation process between Yitzhaq Rabin and Hafiz al-Asad is being held in the last few hours with the mediation of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. Tomorrow Christopher will visit Damascus again, in order to facilitate what political sources term as progress in talks with Syria."

Political correspondent Gadi Sukenik, in a live report from the King David Hotel, says Warren Christopher just left the hotel to an unknown destination, adding "there are rumors he left for another meeting with the prime minister." Sukenik reports that some progress was made on the Syrian track, although "all the parties involved warn not to expect any breakthroughs." Sukenik continues: "The Syrians have apparently offered clarifications regarding the Israeli demand that the Syrians prevent Hizballah from firing katyushas at Israel from Lebanese territory. Christopher apparently brought some initial promises regarding this issue, to the effect that the understandings achieved will be preserved for a long period."

Reverting to the meeting held this morning between Christopher and Rabin, Sukenik, in a recorded passage, states that "in the private meeting between the two it was agreed that the secretary of state depart for Damascus tomorrow morning—contrary to plan—with Israeli answers to Syrian questions and vice versa." Sukenik notes that following this meeting Prime Minister Rabin briefed Foreign Minister Peres. Sukenik adds: "Even if there is no breakthrough yet, the peace negotiations seem to have been extricated from the stalemate.

Returning to the live report from the King David Hotel, Sukenik states that "now we have apparently entered the stage of hypothetical questions. Rabin is apparently beginning to ask al-Asad—via Christopher—what will happen if Israel withdraws on the Golan Heights. What will Israel receive in return? From al-Asad, Christopher hears the opposite question: What will happen if I give peace; how many kilometers will I receive on the Golan Heights? Will I receive all of it?

Sukenik then comments on the meeting held between Christopher and Likud leaders Binyamin Netanyahu and Moshe Qatzav. Both of them, in recorded passages, state they expressed to Christopher the Likud position against withdrawal from the Golan Heights and the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Anchorman Pe'er picks up the report, turning to the meeting of Christopher with the Palestinian delegation this evening, in which "Faysal al-Husayni gave Warren Christopher the detailed comments of the Palestinian delegation regarding the U.S. proposal on a draft joint declaration of principles with Israel." Christopher praised the Palestinian move, saying the Americans will now study these comments. Correspondent Yoram Kohen, reporting on this meeting, notes the absence of Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi from this meeting as well.

Palestinian spokesman Hanan 'Ashrawi, in a news conference "held a short time ago," comments on the talks, in English: "The Palestinian document is a response to the American position. The substance is entirely based on the declaration of principles that we had presented earlier. The basic issue continues to be territorial jurisdiction, including Jerusalem, within the terms of reference, and the fact that we need a geographic definition for the whole territories as occupied territories and not disputed territories, and that Jerusalem is an essential component of these occupied territories. And therefore no solution is possible without addressing this issue and solving it in a just and legal manner."

The report on Christopher's itinerary today ends with anchorman Pe'er's description of Christopher's talks in Jordan today.

Evening Meeting With Rabin Reported

TA0508194793 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1930 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin held another meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in his office in Jerusalem this evening. Christopher left the King David Hotel for about half an hour, and during this time he met Rabin.

Sources in the prime minister's bureau confirmed that the meeting was held, but refused to divulge any details on its contents.

Progress in Syrian Talks Reported

TA0608103093

[Editorial Report] All Israeli newspapers on 6 August report extensively on U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's peace efforts during his current Middle East shuttle diplomacy.

Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on page 3, in a report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer, says the secretary "laid the foundations for an Israeli-Syrian peace settlement, according to a source very close to Prime Minister Rabin." Schiffer says the "good news" Rabin referred to after his talks with Christopher on Thursday [5 August] morning "refers to al-Asad's readiness to clarify in detail the questions pertaining to the essence of the peace with Israel. Al-Asad has also agreed to strive for a separate peace accord with Israel, even before a permanent stage settlement with the Palestinians is finalized."

Schiffer goes on to say that another "achievement" of Christopher's talks in the region is that he informed Rabin "that the Lebanese Government has agreed—with Syrian approval—to set up with Israel joint committees to discuss normalization of relations between the two states. The committees will work out security arrangements along the Lebanese-Israeli border, and Israel will agree to withdraw from the security zone after the establishment of adequate security arrangements."

Schiffer notes that Secretary Christopher made it clear last night that "President al-Asad refuses at this stage to raise the level of talks with Israel to foreign ministers' level. Al-Asad prefers the contacts to be made via Christopher, who is trying to lay the ground for a meeting at that level.

"Nevertheless, in the coming weeks, the Israeli Foreign Ministry will try to convince Christopher's aide Dennis Ross to set up a meeting between Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. The targeted date for the meeting is September when both ministers will attend the UN General Assembly session."

Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English, in a page 1 report by David Makovsky, Bill Hutman, and Michal Yudelman, reports that "top aides to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin say he is now convinced Damascus genuinely wants to reach a peace accord with Israel," based on a report Secretary Christopher presented on his Damascus talks.

"We told Christopher of our serious intent for peace with Syria, and now we are convinced that Syria is equally determined to reach an accord with us," a top aide to Rabin told THE JERUSALEM POST.

In contrast to the YEDI'OT AHARONOT article, however, the report quotes "officials in Jerusalem" as saying that "people should forget about the notion that Syria will sign a separate accord with Israel. Rather progress must be made on the Palestinian track."

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on page A1, in a report by Hemi Shalev and Yosi Torpstein, quotes Israeli sources as saying that "all the sides, including the Syrians and the Lebanese, expressed satisfaction with the understandings reached in the wake of Operation Accountability."

The report has the sources saying that "al-Asad did not go beyond previous Syrian pronouncements on peace, and he did not add new information about the characteristics of the full peace, as seen by Syria." But according to "a source well acquainted with the negotiations," the Syrians "now agree that they have to provide more detailed answers to the Israeli questions." The report adds that Christopher quoted al-Asad as saying "the overall peace Syria is talking about has clear and binding definitions in international law. Something similar was said in the Washington talks by the Syrian delegate Muwaffaq al-'Allaf."

Nevertheless, "political sources in Damascus made it clear to Christopher that Syria would not agree to raise the level of the talks with Israel as long as Jerusalem does not commit itself to withdrawal in accordance with the Security Council resolutions. They rejected the reports emanating from Israel about a breakthrough in the negotiations, claiming that Jerusalem was disseminating the rumors in order to harm coordination among the Arab states."

In another report on page A3 of HA'ARETZ, Hemi Shalev quotes "a senior political source" as saying Thursday night that "there are in fact no differences of opinion between Israel and Lebanon." The source reportedly said that what is holding up an Israeli-Lebanese agreement "is Beirut's inability to provide a convincing assurance about its ability to maintain quiet along the northern border." That assurance "can be provided by the Syrians," the source reportedly said.

According to the same source, the positive atmosphere on the Lebanon issue during Christopher's visit, is "an outcome of the understandings reached following Operation Accountability. Those understandings spurred the Lebanese into putting into operation their sovereign powers even in areas they avoided in the past." The sources added that "Rabin's remarks about the role of the understandings in strengthening the Israeli public's self-confidence are also true about the other players in the Lebanon arena, including the Americans, the Syrians, and the Lebanese. 'Reaching the understandings and so far maintaining them has convinced everybody that things can be moved here,' the sources said."

Peres Notes New 'Momentum'

TA0608064293 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0605 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Impromptu news conference with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres following U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's departure at Ben-Gurion Airport—live; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Peres] ...the offer will be examined in the next few days, in Washington as well, and then the parties will be advised how to continue.

[IDF radio's Eldad Beck] Mr. Peres, how do you view the fact that the Syrian top leadership was called for an emergency session last night. Do you believe this could lead to a breakthrough on the Syrian track?

[Peres] I have no idea. I also have no information on this. I hope this is the case, but I am not certain.

[Beck] How do you sum up the Middle East visit by your U.S. counterpart?

[Peres] Instead of having the negotiations sink into the void that followed the third [as heard] round of talks, it has been revived. Momentum was added to it, and now we have to make progress.

Peres on Syrian, Palestinian Tracks

TA0608105793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0905 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Shlomo Raz at Ben-Gurion Airport following Christopher's departure "this morning"—recorded]

[Text] [Raz] What was Christopher referring to when he said that the peace process has been salvaged?

[Peres] After the 10th round of talks, we felt that the option of such negotiation has been exhausted to the end. A break was created, or in fact, a vacuum was created. The problem was how to move the negotiations away from this empty space, put it back on track, bring it back to life, and give it new momentum.

[Raz] What brought the new momentum to the peace talks?

[Peres] First, it has been made clear that none of the parties wants to stop the process. Second, new aspects were introduced by all the parties: for example, the Lebanese aspect, the Syrian views, the Jordanian role, the Palestinian stand. Everywhere there was something new, though I would not say it was far-reaching. Progress is slow, but it is progress nonetheless.

[Raz] Have our expectations to advance with the Syrians been met so far?

[Peres] There certainly was no backtracking, and some progress was made. There is always the problem of how to describe it. We are also responsible for preventing a distortion of the picture of the situation or creating incorrect expectations. We are not just being careful with our words, we simply want to describe the situation in a responsible manner so as not to mislead the public. Therefore, I say: There is no backtracking; there is progress, though not yet decisive; there is hope; and the process will continue.

[Raz] Sir, before Christopher arrived, you said that the Palestinians can be offered Gaza First plus something. Still, the talks on this track have made no progress.

[Peres] The Palestinians are engaged in a serious internal debate. They should decide where they are heading.

[Raz] The talks are to resume in September on two tracks: in Washington and in shuttle diplomacy here. Am I correct?

[Peres] This is an offer; nothing has been decided yet. The offer will be examined in the next few days, in Washington as well, and then the parties will be advised how to continue.

Rabinovich on Possible Rabin-al-Asad Summit

TA0608062893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Telephone interview with Professor Itamar Rabinovich, ambassador to the United States and head of the negotiating team with Syria, by Sheli Yehimovich—live]

[Text] [Yehimovich] CNN claimed last night that Christopher is very energetically working to arrange a meeting between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. Can you confirm this report?

[Rabinovich] Even CNN can be wrong sometimes.

[Yehimovich] Assuming this is a theoretical question: Some believe that only such a summit meeting can bring about real progress in the negotiations with Syria. Do you share this view?

[Rabinovich] I would not use the word only. I hope that, if indeed we are on the right track where the negotiations started making progress or took off, the level of negotiators could be raised and additional persons and levels can begin holding meetings. I believe that only if the two countries open up to each other, an involvement by the political echelons—not only for the sake of negotiations, but also to get acquainted—could take the negotiations where we want them. At the same time, I believe that any such talk at this stage is far ahead of the reality .

[Yehimovich] Meaning that such a summit meeting depends on achievements and understanding attained through Warren Christopher's shuttle mission?

[Rabinovich] I would not like to even create a linkage or an illusion that meetings on this or other levels are imminent or that they were actually discussed. It looks like CNN speculation, and I would not suggest that we begin speculating on the basis of this report.

[Yehimovich] We heard that yesterday, for the first time in many years, President al-Asad convened the leadership of the Progressive National Front. Can we deduce that he updated them on or shared far-reaching political moves with them?

[Rabinovich] My reply is twofold: In general, judging from past experience, a convention of this leadership used to serve as a statement of support that delivered a message to the Syrians and the rest of the world. I cannot say that I remember the last time this forum was convened—that is, the fact it was convened is dramatic in itself. It could be important, but it is not certain that it was important.

[Yehimovich] How do you explain the position of the Palestinian delegation yesterday —the fact that they went point by point and discussed every clause? Christopher welcomed it, but in fact, the U.S. efforts to bring about the signing of a document of principles were blocked.

[Rabinovich] I do not believe that they were blocked. The negotiations with the Palestinians are awkward, but we should consider the alternatives that were broached last week. Had the Palestinians not responded to the U.S. document at all, we would have regarded it as a sign of unwillingness to hold a dialogue. They responded in a very detailed manner. Naturally, this does not help make quick progress but, as such, the reaction is not a negative sign—just the opposite.

[Yehimovich] We heard that the bilateral talks will resume in Washington next month, accompanied by a shuttle dialogue here. In fact, we will have two tracks of negotiations. How will this work technically? Will the delegations be sitting in Washington while U.S. representatives shuttle among the Middle East countries?

[Rabinovich] I do not believe we are speaking of simultaneous talks. Over the past two or three months, we have moved to a situation in which the Washington talks are being fed and assisted by visits by U.S. representatives in the region—we may call this a shuttle mission if we want to add color. If indeed a round of talks is held in Washington at the beginning of September, it can go on like this. The current shuttle has helped bring a decision to issue invitations closer, but no such decision has been made yet. Also, we hope that the current visit helped the negotiations deal with some substance. There may be another visit by U.S. representatives later in August—perhaps not on the level of secretary of state—to sustain momentum between the sessions. As we have learned from past experience, having too long a period without activity is not good for the negotiations. The two tracks, or two forms of making progress, will definitely feed each other.

[Yehimovich] On a more general tone: Yesterday, we heard the prime minister make some optimistic statements regarding Syria's seriousness. Obviously, this stems from the messages Secretary of State Warren Christopher brought with him. Are these negotiating tactics or is peace really knocking at our door? Was a real breakthrough made?

[Rabinovich] No. When we speak among ourselves, we do not use the term breakthrough. The way this term has been used over the past year, has eroded it significantly. I have read of far too many breakthroughs which eventually led nowhere. At the same time, I believe we have been given indications of the serious way in which Syria addresses the negotiations. The news was certainly good, and they were followed by positive remarks on our part—both as a real response to the good news and as a message from us that the message we have received was not lost.

[Yehimovich] Will we have peace with Syria at the end of this process?

[Rabinovich] We hope an Israel-Arab arrangement is made, not only with Syria. Naturally, the question is about the date to which the word end refers. We, the government, and a large part of the public, have been making efforts and pinning hopes on the negotiations for quite a long time, with the sole hope and belief that, eventually, they will yield the results we hope for.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 6 August, carries another live telephone interview with Rabinovich, in which he adds: "The good news we have been discussing over the past several days refers to the Syrian willingness to address the roots of the issues and to seriously deal with clarifying the substantial issues of the negotiating process. The news includes the testimony al-Asad gave Christopher, as relayed to us, that al-Asad is not only willing to continue the negotiations, but also to end them in a serious way. Therefore, it is clear to us today that we have a serious partner—not only for negotiations, but also for an agreement." Rabinovich adds that "we have not reached the stage of details yet," but contrary to the situation "two years ago—when he started the negotiations and he was not completely clear that he was entering negotiations that could lead to a real peace that would put an end to the Syrian-Israeli conflict—he now understands that this is the issue, and gave a positive reply regarding his intentions in this respect, which I believe means that important progress was made."

[The ambassador adds that "at this time we are not working on summit meetings." Rabinovich further says that "the main message Christopher brought with him is that al-Asad understands that he will not be signing a paper called a peace treaty that will merely create a state of nonbelligerency. He understands well that a peace treaty also means a state of peace."]

Bethlehem Mayor Stresses U.S. Role in Peace Process

NC0608093693 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Telephone interview with Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj in Bethlehem by Fawzi al-Jundi in Cairo on the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Jundi] Welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Frayj] Thank you.

[Al-Jundi] How does the Palestinian public in the occupied territories view the current U.S. moves, notably

Warren Christopher's visit to the Middle East and his meeting with the members of the Palestinian delegation to the Washington talks?

[Frayj] Public opinion in the occupied territories reflects extreme frustration and lack of trust in U.S. policy. The people are still in a state of shock following the events in south Lebanon. Nevertheless, politics must be based on facts. Personally I welcome U.S. Secretary of State Christopher's visit. The United States has a powerful pioneering role in promoting the peace process. As Arabs we must exploit this visit to the best of our ability. This is a historic opportunity. We must back the peace process and encourage further U.S. efforts to invigorate the peace process because all Middle Eastern people badly need a just and comprehensive peace.

[Al-Jundi] Mr. Frayj, how can the Palestinians in the territories invigorate the peace operation?

[Frayj] The Palestinians in the territories are waiting for a glimmer of hope or a green light at the end of the long, dark tunnel. The Israeli Government must remove the security cordon that besieges the citizens, return our deported brothers from Marj al-Zuhur [in south Lebanon], and ease the measures it imposes on the citizens. If these measures are eased, the deportees are allowed to return, and a general improvement of the situation occurs, I believe that a more favorable climate will be produced for the peace process.

[Al-Jundi] Do you believe that current Israeli actions and the situation in the occupied territories are conducive to peace? Brigadier General Sha'ul Mufaz, [new] military commander of the occupied West Bank, has announced that his priority task is to end the Palestinian intifadah.

[Frayj] If one seeks a peaceful solution, one must deal with the existing facts. We are living under Israeli occupation and have a legitimate right to resist it. Israel cannot deny this. All nations who have fallen under occupation have resisted it by all legitimate means. I do not agree with the commander you named. I believe that the Israeli Government must show goodwill to the West Bank and Gaza citizens, end the closure of these areas, allow us to go to Jerusalem, return the deportees, and generally ease its measures. As Palestinians, we believe that peace with the Israeli people is inevitable. We also believe in seeking a just and comprehensive peaceful solution. I watched Christopher on television announcing that a peaceful solution must be based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the land-for-peace principle. We accept and back these principles. The Israeli Government must stop its measures against the citizens.

[Al-Jundi] Mr. Frayj, current Palestinian proposals contain two options: Passing through a transitional stage of Palestinian autonomy toward a final status that includes establishing a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation, or merging the transitional and final stage into one. As a Palestinian official living inside the territories, what are your views on these two Palestinian options?

[Frayj] Implementing either option is difficult under current circumstances. Unless Israel accepts, there will be no solution. Hence we must persuade the U.S. Administration to adopt the Palestinian viewpoint. Either option is practical and acceptable. Jordanian-Palestinian confederation is an obvious option. It serves both the Palestinians and Jordanians. We are one nation, part of which lives on the West Bank and the other on the East Bank. However, I believe that we must not limit ourselves to one closed option right now. Let us continue negotiating flexibly, realistically, and astutely. Without assistance from the United States and our Arab brothers, notably dear Egypt and the Egyptian Government, our position would be very difficult. We must commit ourselves, first of all, to implementing UN resolutions and achieve our demands on the basis of Security Council resolutions. Full cooperation with our Arab brothers is essential in this quest. We must cooperate with Egypt, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon and all other Arab countries.

[Al-Jundi] Mr. Ilyas Frayj, mayor of Bethlehem, thank you.

[Frayj] You are welcome.

Peres Takes Questions From Arab Radio Listeners

JN0508165793

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem Qol Yisrae'l in Arabic at 1240 GMT on 5 August carries a 67-minute "live" "Open Dialogue" program in which Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres replies to questions from Arabic-speaking listeners. Questions in Arabic are simultaneously translated into Hebrew. Peres' Hebrew responses are translated into Arabic by the program's announcer.

The program begins with a question from Cairo posed by Hasan Fu'ad, deputy chief editor of AL-AHRAM newspaper, on Lebanese affairs. Technical problems at the station prevent translation of Peres' answer.

Asked about the peace process by a Triangle resident, Peres says: "We hope to reach a solution with the Palestinians within six to nine months. This does not depend on us alone, but on the Palestinians, as well. Of course, we are trying to overcome the difficulties pertaining to this issue."

Asked by a Gaza resident about U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's Middle East tour, Peres says: "We have four options with the Palestinians, the Jordanians, the Syrians, and the Lebanese. We want to see progress on all these tracks."

Asked by a southern Lebanese resident if the recent U.S.-brokered understanding among the Lebanese, Syrian, and Israeli governments will affect the situation in southern Lebanon, Peres says that Israel has no enemies there. He says: "We want them to remain in their houses without fear at night or during the day so

they can work in fields and factories." Peres says it is Hizballah that creates difficulties and "caused severe damage to Lebanon."

Asked by a KULL AL-'ARAB magazine editor about deportations, the "siege" of the West Bank, and the recent military operation in Lebanon, Peres says Israel had to end the stabbings of Israeli citizens, as well as the missile attacks on the northern region in order to "pave the way for peace and removing opponents." He says Israel will not allow Hamas and Hizballah to control the agenda. Israel, he says, is serious about elections. Arabs will not be disappointed, he adds.

Asked by 'Abd-al-Sattar al-Tawilah, an employee of the Egyptian magazine ROSE AL-YUSUF, if Israel will totally withdraw from Golan if Syria agrees to full peace, Peres says: "If al-Asad had come to Israel and delivered a speech before the Knesset, things would have been clearly different. I cannot answer this question. We accept the principle of withdrawal. The extent of withdrawal will be determined by peace itself. We have to know the nature of peace and how we can define the extent of withdrawal."

A KULL AL-'ARAB magazine journalist asks if Israel plans to negotiate with the PLO. Peres responds: "There is no plan for that."

Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj telephones, stressing that the Israelis and the Palestinians "are destined to live in this country together and forever" and wonders why fighting should continue. Peres agrees with Frayj and calls for coexistence to achieve Middle East prosperity.

Asked by a South Lebanese Army soldier about the fate of the army in case of an Israeli agreement with the Lebanese Government, Peres says the South Lebanese Army soldiers are "nationalist Lebanese" and that the army has served the peace process.

A West Bank citizen asks about deportees. Peres answers that they can return by the end of this year.

Replying to a question by a Palestinian journalist in Nicosia on the PLO's role in negotiations, Peres says: "You have to pose this question to the PLO. If the PLO had been a political party and not a terrorist party, the matter would have been different."

Asked by a Hebron citizen about repatriation, Peres answers: "We have two reasons. There is only one Jewish state in the world and there are 24 Arab states." He adds that the Jewish state should have a Jewish majority. Responding to another question about the West Bank, Peres says: "The siege is not permanent."

Regarding the killing of children in the West Bank, Peres says that Israel does not want to see children killed and that it is taking every measure to prevent this.

Ministers React to Reported Sarid-Sha'th Meeting

Ben-Eli'ezer Supports Dialogue

TA0508144693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Text] Referring to the meeting of Minister Yosi Sarid and Knesset Member Dedi Zucker with Nabil Sha'th, Minister Binyamin Ben- Eli'ezer said that everything is permissible when the country has an objective to pursue a peace process while preserving its security and existence. According to Minister Ben-Eli'ezer there is no difference between Faysal al-Husayni and Nabil Sha'th and between Hanan 'Ashrawi and Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas]—because all of them belong to the PLO.

Our correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that Minister Ben-Eli'ezer also said the Likud people who criticized the meeting are hypocrites, because it was the Likud that launched the dialogue with the PLO.

Labor Ministers Said Divided

TA0508184793 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Text] Now let us go back to the as yet not fully confirmed meeting between Environment Minister Yosi Sarid and Knesset Member [MK] Dedi Zucker on the one hand, and Yasir 'Arafat's adviser on the other. This meeting has whipped up a storm in Israeli political circles. Labor party ministers were also divided in their positions with regard to this meeting. Our correspondent Moshe Hakohen reports from Jerusalem.

[Begin recording] [Hakohen] Labor party ministers were divided with respect to the Sarid-Zucker-Sha'th meeting. The hawkish wing of the cabinet, Ministers Qeysar, Shetrit, and Tzur, objected to the meeting for both substantive and tactical reasons. Ministers Hayim Ramon and Moshe Shahal took the middle ground, and while not condemning the meeting, did not say that they approved of it either. Up until now, the only Labor minister who has expressed clear-cut support for Zucker and Sarid is Tourism Minister 'Uzi Bar'am. Let us hear what Ministers Bar'am and Tzur have to say.

[Tzur] If this is some kind of attempt to show that Israel is moving toward negotiations with the PLO instead of with the Palestinian delegation, then I think it will backfire and have an adverse affect on the promotion of the peace process. Something that will not be beneficial. Obviously, if the media is recruited on its behalf, then one has precluded any attempt at holding behind- the-scenes contacts, and that is only to be regretted. I do not think that it will promote the negotiations.

[Bar'am] If such a meeting took place then I welcome it. More and more people in Israeli public opinion are becoming convinced of things that me and my colleagues already believed in years ago. That the way to make real progress with the Palestinians is through the PLO. Those people who went around the PLO all these years actually

helped strengthen Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], and today the alternative is not between the PLO and Palestinian bleeding heart liberals, but between the PLO and Hamas.

[Hakohen] The Meretz faction, as expected, stood squarely behind its two leaders who met with the PLO chairman's adviser. Young Meretz activists even called on the prime minister to demonstrate courage and leadership and personally meet with Yasir 'Arafat.

The right-wing opposition came out with a sharp and negative reaction. Likud faction Chairman Moshe Qatzav said that the meeting was a manifestation of the ministers' reckless behavior and constituted proof that the prime minister had lost control of his government. Such meetings, Qatzav contended, would lead to a resumption of the contacts between the United States and the PLO, and lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Tzomet officials believe that the Cairo meeting indicates a serious change for the worse in the government's policy, and condemned the prime minister for not objecting to it. The Meretz ministers, Tzomet MK Gonen Segev asserted, have thus become the government's official emissaries in negotiations with the PLO.

Rehav'am Ze'evi, the head of the Moledet faction, called on the prime minister to put his government in order and teach the ministers not to overstep their authority. Such a confused government, Ze'evi said, cannot bring peace.

The sharpest condemnation of the meeting came, as expected, from the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, which expressed disgust with the meeting, and described Sarid's and Zucker's interlocutors as the representatives of an organization that murdered women and children. [end recording]

Shahal: Meeting Not Official

TA0508165993 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1400 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Interview with Police Minister Moshe Shahal in the Jerusalem studio by Amnon Levi—recorded "a short time ago"]

[Excerpts] [Levi] Minister Moshe Shahal, were you cognizant of the meeting between Minister Yosi Sarid and Nabil Sha'th?

[Shahal] No.

[Levi] It looks to me as though you are holding something back.

[Shahal] No. It is a simple fact that I did not know anything about it.

[Levi] To the best of your knowledge, was the prime minister cognizant of the planned meeting before Minister Sarid left to Egypt for the meeting with Nabil Sha'th?

[Shahal] Look, I know Yosi Sarid very well, and I do not believe he would have left without leaving a forwarding address. It is true that this visit was not formally approved by the government, but I assume he left an address, so that people knew where to locate him.

[Levi] Did he leave this address in Rabin's pocket?

[Shahal] Perhaps in his bureau, or maybe in his pocket. I do not think we should dwell on this point too much.

[Levi] Whether Rabin knew about this meeting or not is very important. I want to ask you, however, whether Foreign Minister Peres knew about this meeting?

[Shahal] No, I do not think so. This trip was not carried out on behalf of or with the knowledge or agreement of the government.

[Levi] What you are saying is very interesting indeed: Rabin knew about the meeting, but Peres was ignorant of it. Does this fact not seem strange to you?

[Shahal] Mr. Levi, I am not dealing here with who knows what. You asked me a question, and I answered it. I do not think Minister Sarid's trip was conducted on behalf of the government. [passage omitted]

[Levi] Do you support such meetings?

[Shahal] Look, I want to tell you that I have never harbored any illusions about the identity of the element with whom we have to speak. The reason for this is that I am a realistic person. [passage omitted]

I want to reiterate here what I have been saying for the past four years: I think we should speak with every Palestinian who meets four important conditions: One, recognizes not only Israel, but also Israel's right to exist—this is a very important thing in the Arab world. Two, conducts negotiations on the basis of resolutions 242 and 338. Three, speaks and acts against any sort of terrorism and violence. Four, in the framework of the permanent arrangement, no more demands can be raised, including the right of return. If any Palestinian meets these four demands, it makes no difference whether his name is Yasir or Faysal.

[Levi] Minister Shahal, everybody knows that in order to meet these four demands it is necessary to speak with the PLO. Perhaps, then, Sarid's meeting with the PLO was meant to create the right conditions between Israel and the PLO. Was this an exploratory meeting? Was he sent on a mission to find out....

[Shahal, interrupting] No, I can give you an unequivocal negative answer here. I would have posed my four conditions in Madrid and in the present talks. This would have prevented the situation in which we are

talking with mere envoys. As former Prime Minister Shamir, Prime Minister Rabin, and all of us know—the Palestinian delegation members are only envoys, not the real leaders. I would prefer to sign an agreement with someone who can enforce the agreement—once he meets my conditions. My assessment, however, is that Sarid's trip did not result in anything substantial.

[Levi] Is this a mere assessment, or do you know this for a fact?

[Shahal] I know this for a fact. I do not think the meeting ended in anything substantial. The only outstanding thing in this meeting is that it was conducted by a minister. [passage omitted]

Sources: Rabin Aware of Meeting

TA0508195693 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin knew beforehand about Minister Sarid's intention to meet PLO's Nabil Sha'th in Cairo. Mr. Rabin did not attempt to prevent the meeting, and later was even briefed about the meeting by Minister Sarid and Knesset Member Dedi Zucker, who also participated in the meeting. This is reported by our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik, who notes that sources in the prime minister's bureau downplay the entire issue and do not attach any political significance to it. Political sources assess that the Sarid-Sha'th is mainly of symbolic significance, saying that this is another stage in the rapprochement between Israel and the PLO. [passage omitted]

Gur: IDF To Use 'Full Force' if Hizballah Resumes Fire

TA0608082593 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Report Netan'el Semrik—recorded]

[Text] [Semrik] The understandings between Israel and Syria, made at the end of Operation Accountability, state that the firing of katyushas at Israel will be suspended. No agreement or understanding was made regarding the prevention of terror activity in the security zone. Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur told us, therefore, that the attacks over the past 24 hours do not mean that the terrorists indeed intend to again open fire at the northern settlements.

[Gur] There is no doubt that Hizballah will make every effort to renew its activity. Possibly, due to the blow it had suffered, it might even want to escalate its activity. We are ready for this, both mentally and in terms of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] deployment and readiness. We assume that this can definitely happen.

[Semrik] In view of the expected escalation, assuming that some Hizballah leader is listening to IDF Radio, what would you tell him?

[Gur] I would tell him that, if he continues his activities, he will have to take full responsibility for it. We will use our full force, as we see fit, according to our understanding of the situation. They have learned that we are forceful in many diverse areas which make the situation uncomfortable for them. I would tell him to carefully reconsider before he resumes attacks.

[Semrik] In this context, it is worth noting that last night, the IDF did not return the terrorists' fire.

IDF Soldier Reported Killed by 'Terrorists'

TA0608065793 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0638 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier, Yaron Hen, was kidnapped and murdered yesterday evening near the Arab village of al-Ram north of Jerusalem. His family has been notified. Our correspondent Golan Yokhpaz has the details:

Private Yaron Hen, an IDF soldier, was kidnapped and murdered by terrorists yesterday. He was on his way from a military base near Ramallah to his home in Jerusalem. This is the IDF spokesman announcement which was published a few minutes ago. The soldier's family has been notified.

The soldier was kidnapped around 1800 yesterday, after he caught a ride with a commercial van in the Ramallah area. Another soldier who was in the area noticed that a struggle was taking place in the van, and tried to stop it by running and shooting in the air, but the car fled. The van was found several hours later, after a wide-scale search by the IDF and the police. The van was burned out, and a body that was found in it was later identified as the abducted soldier.

Major General Nehemya Tamari, commander of the Central Command, and Brigadier General Sha'ul Mufaz, commander of the IDF forces in Judaea and Samaria, arrived at the cite, followed the searches, and held initial debriefings.

King Husayn, Christopher Hold News Conference 5 Aug

JN0508182793 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Aug 93

["Joint news conference" by King Husayn and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher with unidentified domestic and international correspondents at the Royal Hashemite Court in Amman on 5 August—recorded, in English unless otherwise specified]

[Text] [Husayn] Ladies and gentlemen, it is a great pleasure for me to meet with you today, and it has been an opportunity for the prime minister, the government, crown prince, and myself to welcome once again Secretary Christopher to Jordan. We have had the chance to discuss the problems that have been the subject of his efforts and those of the administration, and our concerns as well in regard to the way we move forward, hopefully, toward achieving our objectives, for conditions we seek for all within this region in a context of a just and durable peace. I believe we are up to date on what has happened so far, and I would leave it to you, sir, to add to that.

[Christopher] Thank you, your majesty. It is very good to be back in Jordan again, and I am grateful, as always, for the hospitality of the king and the prime minister here today. In the short time that we have been here, we've had the chance to go over a wide range of issues, bilateral, regional, and global. On the bilateral front, I had an opportunity to congratulate his majesty and the prime minister on the steps that they are taking at the present time toward a greater effectiveness of democracy in Jordan, and I wished him well in the period between now and the election on November 8, which I think is just four years after the earlier election that took a first major step in this direction. We also talked about the sanctions against Iraq. I thanked his majesty for the effective enforcement of them, but also expressed concern that they operate in a fair and even way toward Jordan.

[Christopher continues] On the regional front, I reported to him on my visits to the various countries in the region that are involved in the peace process in addition to Jordan. I reported to him on my talks in Israel, in Syria, in Lebanon, and with the Palestinians. I told him that I was pleased to find that the peace talks still had some momentum to them. People were prepared to reengage, to refocus. And I think it was common ground between the two of us that I told them it was more urgent to get on with the peace process. I told him I found a serious engagement on behalf of all the parties.

And, of course, the bilateral between the Israelis and Jordanians is going forward in a very effective way. We talked about that briefly, and I think we left it. I would be getting back in touch with him after I meet later today with the Palestinians and move on to my other talks.

As we always do, I sought his majesty's views on global issues. I sought to receive his advice and wisdom. We talked some about the tragic conditions in Bosnia, which his majesty has been following very rapidly, very closely. He told me that he strongly endorsed the new initiative of President Clinton to try to take steps to lift the siege of Sarajevo, and to achieve a fair and equitable settlement.

So, we've had in a brief period of time a good trip here to Jordan, and we are in the company of friends here dealing with difficult problems, but in a way I hope will be constructive. Your majesty, thank you very much for allowing us to come here.

[Reporter] I'd like to ask you, referring to a press conference that was last week held in Washington, was your reference to the West Bank and Gaza Strip as disputed territories or occupied territories? Is this a change in the U.S. position, and how would it affect the U.S. position regarding UN Resolution 242? My second part is on what is U.S. position regarding the Jewish settlements in Jerusalem?

[Christopher] There's been absolutely no change in the United States' position on either of those subjects. Some times terms are used interchangeably, but I understand in this region terms particularly have a great meaning connected to them, and with regard to the territories you mentioned, that is the West Bank and Gaza, as being occupied territories. And, with respect to Jerusalem, there's been no change in the United States' position. With respect to Jerusalem, we regard that as a final status matter, and we think the parties should not—I think the parties are pledged indeed not to take matters that will take steps that will interfere with a final solution.

[Reporter] Mr. Secretary, we've heard several times from you, sir, mentioning the importance of achieving progress in the peace talks at the end of this year. So, what's so magic about the end of this year? Why not tomorrow or next month?

[Christopher] You know, the end of this year was really not my term. When I first took my trip out here in March, a number of people in the region had said to me: 1993 should be a year of genuine progress; we must take some steps this year. I think that was a metaphoric way of saying that we shouldn't delay any longer; we shouldn't keep postponing this. I would like to make progress tomorrow or next week. But I think it's sometimes helpful to focus on targets like the end of the year. And we ought to ask ourselves, by the end of the year, how much progress we've made during 1993. That's the context in which I view that question.

[Reporter] With reference to the situation in Bosnia, you've decided that you are going to go to the region, to Europe, tomorrow to discuss this issue and receive a briefing on the preparations for the enactment, shall we say, of the U.S. initiative. What's the need for doing that at this point? Is there some problem with the operation of details? If not, why have they taken so long to be analyzed?

[Christopher] The context of my visit to the operational headquarters in Italy is that last Monday NATO took a decision in principle to take positive action on President

Clinton's initiative. The military authorities in NATO were then delegated the responsibility of drawing up plans during the course of this week. As time passes, the situation deteriorates on the ground. It is a matter of great concern to me, and I thought that it was just prudent and wise for me to stop in Italy and talk with our commanders there; to talk about, first, the way in which the military arrangements have been approached in NATO, and second, what might be our contingency plans for action if we find that the Serbs continue the strangulation of Bosnia. So, it seemed to me to be desirable before I left the region to have a chance to talk first hand to the commanders on the ground who might be involved, if and when it becomes necessary to take action.

[Reporter, in Arabic] What is the situation now? You have spoken about national dialogue. Yesterday, the information minister announced he had not yet discussed this issue; the amendment of the elections law. The truth is that we want an explicit stand on this issue. The other question is how do you view the Israelis' credibility vis-a-vis the peace process, in the wake of the recent aggression on Lebanon?

[Husayn, in Arabic] Sir, with respect to the first question, I believe that the answer to it is that measures were taken yesterday, concerning the House of Representatives, in preparation for holding the elections on the date that will coincide with the same date that the previous elections were held, four years ago. It is illogical to proceed through this stage without adopting the measures that were taken yesterday. As for the dialogue, the door is open to pursue it. I believe the issue has been discussed by all, in its many forms. Actually, no decision has been made and no final project has been formulated But, the objective is to enhance the democratic march and respect the reality that we all respect: Jordanians have equal rights and obligations. This is stipulated in the Jordanian Constitution. We safeguard the Constitution. Our national charter is our course to attaining our objectives for a better future.

We listened to the secretary of state concerning his tour. He spoke to you about his impressions, about what he sensed in the region. We hope these impressions are accurate. We will see how things proceed in the coming stage. Once again, we call for a just, lasting, and honorable peace that future generations will accept, a peace that will restore to the Palestinian brothers their rights on their national soil.

[Reporter] Mr. Secretary, during the course of your talks with the Jordanians, Palestinians, and Israelis this time round, have you discussed the idea of a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation, and if not, is such concept likely to enter the peace negotiations in the short term?

[Christopher] That concept has been in the air for some time, and it was raised in the discussion with the Palestinians the other night, not in any definitive way, but simply a concept that was talked about. I think for the time being we should concentrate on trying to find the best means for an interim self-government authority, and leaving longer-range solutions until the parties—that is the Palestinians and the Israelis—can come to some conclusion on interim steps. But, as a full partner in this situation, I certainly don't rule out that kind of a solution as we get further down the road. But, of course, that'll be up to the parties. And, of course, that'll be up to any party that might be a partner in the confederation or federal establishment. But, in short, the question has come up, but not in a definitive way.

I wonder, your majesty, if I could be excused to get back to the aircraft. I think...

[Husayn, interrupting] Thank you very, very much indeed, and hope to see you again before long.

No Signs of 'Substantial' Progress From Christopher Tour

JN0608081993 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 6 Aug 93 pp 1, 14

[Editorial: "What Does Christopher Carry?"]

[Text] At the conclusion of the U.S. secretary of state's tour of the region and his meeting with officials representing the Arab parties to the peace negotiations and with Israeli officials, there are no signs that substantial, significant progress in the peace process is on the horizon.

During his talks with His Majesty King Husayn and Jordanian officials, the presidents of Syria, Lebanon, and Egypt, and the Palestinians, Christopher must have felt the Arab desire to achieve a lasting, comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

For his part, his majesty reasserted to Christopher that Jordan seeks to achieve a just, durable peace accepted by future generations, especially if it is going to return to the Palestinians their legitimate rights on their national soil.

His majesty also said he hoped that the U.S. secretary's impressions of the region will be accurate, adding that Jordan will be watching how things fare in the next stage.

At a news conference in Amman yesterday, Christopher expressed the hope that substantial progress in the peace process will be made before the end of this year, adding that this year should witness some positive, serious steps toward achieving peace. He declined, however, to reveal the new formulas he has for a peaceful solution on the four tracks.

We, along with observers in the region and the world, have noticed that the chief concern of Christopher and the U.S. Administration is the continuation of the negotiations under any circumstances, even if the negotiations lead nowhere—as if the negotiations themselves were the major objective sought by the U.S. Administration. Apparently, procrastination and wasting time and effort is a U.S. policy, just as it is an Israeli policy.

It seems that the U.S. Administration is also counting on time, thinking that time can resolve any difficult problems and create divisions and splits in Arab ranks, culminating in weakness and deterioration. It is clear, however, that the cordon states are now alert to this U.S. and Israeli policy.

If the U.S. secretary of state is not carrying new formulas and ideas on his current tour to invigorate the negotiations on their four tracks, then his tour will meet the same fate his previous one, and end without achieving any tangible results.

While talking to the Arab parties and Israel, Christopher, whose country is a full partner in the negotiations, should not forget about the resolutions of international legitimacy and the land-for- peace principle. The peace process is based on these resolutions. Any formula not based on these resolutions will not elicit any response from the Arab parties.

Christopher, moreover, should force Israel to accept the principle of full withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and recognize the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination on their national soil.

We can judge whether the U.S. Administration is serious or not about achieving just, comprehensive peace only after Christopher spells out the new formulas he has brought along with him to invigorate the peace process.

Christopher Visit Reaffirms 'Vital' Jordanian Role

JN0608091293 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 6 Aug 93 pp 1, 18

[Editorial: "The Jordanian-U.S. Talks"]

[Text] In the midst of a second Middle East tour, part of which can be viewed as a shuttle tour, the U.S. secretary of state's visit to Jordan and his meeting with His Majesty King Husayn and senior officials reaffirms the vital role played by our country within the framework of current diplomatic efforts to achieve the desired just and comprehensive peace in this region.

Short as it was, this visit was an important occasion to reiterate Jordan's stand toward the various issues raised within the framework of the peace process. The visit was also an important occasion to reemphasize the need to achieve progress on all the negotiating tracks and to reach a phased agreement on the Palestinian track that will open the way for a lasting settlement that will restore to the Palestinians their recognized legitimate rights.

There is no doubt that Jordan wants to continue the peace process since peace itself is an option that Jordanian diplomats have worked for more than two decades. Jordan has devoted its best efforts to peace, removing many obstacles that prevented the launching of the peace process, as well as presenting the political umbrella for the Palestinian delegationa to the Madrid conference.

After 10 rounds of negotiations, Jordan, which did not hesitate for one day to announce its commitment to the continuation of the peace process, wants to see the goals of the process become closer and the other parties to show more readiness to continue their persistent efforts to render this process a success. This especially applies to the U.S. cosponsor, which said it will be a full partner in this peace process.

As we welcome the renewed U.S. efforts to revive the peace process and appreciate the role U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is playing to urge the parties to adhere to the option of peace negotiations, we hope that this continued U.S. effort will be able to achieve the desired results, not in terms of reviving the peace process, but in terms of really rendering it a success by reaching substantive progress on all the negotiating tracks, especially the Palestinian track.

Islamic Front: Dissolution of Parliament 'Serious'

JN0608103393 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 6 Aug 93 p 24

[Text] Amman—The Islamic Action Front has issued a statement voicing its opinion on the decision to dissolve Parliament.

In the statement, the Front says: The Islamic Action Front was just as surprised as our people and those interested in Jordan's parliamentary march were by the decision to dissolve Parliament, the leading democratic institution whose term under the Constitution ends on 25 November 1993. The Constitution stipulates that elections should be held during the last four months of the Parliament's term. Hence, it does not call for dissolving the Parliament before the end of its term.

It is no secret to the honest observer that our 11th Parliament has proven its commitment to the state and the Constitution, and has become a model for other parliaments in our Arab region. It also presents a bright picture of the future for Jordan that many wish to attain. From this premise, we, along with many of our people, wish to ask a number of questions: Why dissolve Parliament at this particular time while it is still in office? Is this dissolution related to the talk about the Government's intention to issue a temporary elections law? This falls within the parameters of Parliament and no other body has the right to act on its behalf under normal circumstances, this is the basis on which our Government was formed. Does this dissolution have anything to do with the negotiations? We also want to know: What will happen after the dissolution and what will be the fate of the Government in office at the time Parliament is dissolved?

In light of all this, the Islamic Action Front takes a serious and anxious view of this dissolution and the steps that may follow.

Minister on Army Deployment in South, Israeli Attack

NC0508174993 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Text] Information Minister Michel Samahah clarified today that the duty of the Lebanese Army, which will deploy in the South, is not to control the Resistance but to help the citizens remain steadfast in the face of continuing aggression. At the same time, Samahah added that katyushas are unsuitable for use by the resistance and are unacceptable to the government, the people, and the true Lebanese resistance.

In a radio interview, Samahah denied that the decision to cancel weapon licenses is aimed at the resistance. He added: The resistance is an underground action, and as such, its weapons cannot be licensed. The information minister warned against believing that the Israeli aggression on the south has stopped. The contrary is true, he said. What we have at this stage is a cease-fire, not a direct agreement. Israeli attempts to pressure Lebanon could be repeated.

The information minister stated that Israel's objective in launching the July operation was to strike at stability and the economic revival in Lebanon. Israel wants to turn the countries around it into dismembered suburbs, he added.

The information minister said that what happened in the South was a reason for Christopher's visit to Lebanon. Christopher's visit, he added, was aimed at maintaining the Lebanese-Israeli talks.

Al-Hariri Briefs Cabinet on Talks With Christopher

NC0508201893 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1820 GMT 5 Aug 93

[News conference by Information Minister Michel Samahah with unidentified correspondents after a cabinet meeting in Beirut on 5 August—recorded]

[Excerpts] The cabinet held a regular session this afternoon under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri. Al-Hariri briefed the cabinet on last night's talks with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, on the outcome of the prime minister's consultations, and on the work of the ministerial committee tasked with contacting the UN secretary general and the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] regarding the army deployment in the area under UNIFIL control.

The cabinet discussed various issues connected with the Israeli aggression against south Lebanon and its outcome. The cabinet also reviewed current efforts to return the displaced families to their homes in the south and western al-Biqa' and to provide them with services. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Your Excellency, we would like to know the extent of agreement or disagreement between the proposals as put forth by Secretary Christopher and the position of the Lebanese Government.

[Samahah] There have been no proposals, agreements, or disagreements. What happened was that we exchanged views on this subject. Lebanon reiterated its unwavering position concerning the need for the implementation of the UN Security Council resolution within the framework of the Lebanese-Israeli portion of the negotiations. Lebanon stressed its legitimate right to exercise sovereignty in its land. Until that sovereignty is achieved, Lebanon maintains that its people have the right to liberate their land.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency, has any progress been made in the exchanges with the United Nations concerning the deployment of the Lebanese Army in the UNIFIL area?

[Samahah] These consultations are at an advanced stage now. A meeting is scheduled for tomorrow to discuss the details. Exchanges are continuing and field tours are taking place to help the officials agree on the specifics of deployment.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency, Yitzhaq Rabin announced this afternoon that Christopher brought new messages from Lebanon.

[Samahah] We have not sent any messages. The cabinet has not been informed that Lebanon sent any message, positive or negative, to Israel. Lebanon has reiterated its justifiable stand regarding its rights and the restoration of its land, as I said earlier, and has called for the implementation of Resolution 425.

[Question indistinct]

[Samahah] The Lebanese Government's position on the issue of the resistance is clear. Resistance is the right of every people whose land is occupied and who want to liberate their land.

[Correspondent] Has a timetable for the Army deployment in the south been set?

[Samahah] Once the current contacts have been completed, the plan for the Army deployment will be announced.

Hizballah Spokesman Hails Deployment in South

PM0508155493 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 5 Aug 93 p2

[Unattributed report: "Hizballah: We Appreciate the Army's Role... Decision on Its Deployment Concerns the Government"]

[Text] Beirut, AL-HAYAH—Al-Hajj Husayn al-Khalil, head of Hizballah's Political Bureau, believes that "the government's decision to deploy the Lebanese Army in

the area of the emergency [UN Interim Force in Lebanon, UNIFIL] operations is something which concerns the Lebanese Government and its decision making."

In a statement yesterday, he said: "What we heard about the honorable stance taken by Lebanese government and state officials regarding the resistance, its right to continue, and its entitlement to the necessary support, makes us believe that the government is continuing along these lines. The government continues to hold that position which we highly value and appreciate, and it continues to put this into practice. We also appreciate the great patriotic role played by the Lebanese Army in the south and in Western al-Biqa' during the Zionist offensive against our people and territory. We also value the great amount of cohesion between it and the resistance, reflecting the sincere and good intentions of the Lebanese Government and the Army command, and we are mystified by the Israeli welcome and praise for the decision to deploy the Army in the UNIFIL area of operations."

Al-Khalil believes that "following the latest aggression, the popular stance in the south has been excellent. There is also great cohesion between the popular stance and the official stance. We believe that what some Lebanese officials have been stressing regarding the question of sedition and fear of it, is motivated by their profound eagerness to preserve the internal unity of our ranks, solidarity within the country, and unity at the national level. We believe that the atmosphere is reassuring, particularly as the Israeli offensive in the south and Western al-Biqa', which was tantamount to an offensive against all Lebanon and the entire Arab homeland, was met with unparalleled national unity. Lebanon has never witnessed such cohesion and unity as it did during that offensive, both by the people and by political figures. All the Islamic and patriotic forces in Lebanon, including Muslim and Christian, rallied behind the resistance and its historic role; the resistance scored a resounding victory for Lebanon and all the Arabs and also for Lebanon's unity against the Zionist offensive."

Al-Hariri: Army Will Not Disarm Hizballah

NC0508170093 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Text] Responding to rumors and attempts to spread sedition among the Lebanese, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has affirmed that the Lebanese Army will not disarm Hizballah before Israel withdraws from the south. He clarified that as long as our land is occupied, resisting the occupation is a legitimate action. This applies to Hizballah and the Lebanese resistance in general.

In an interview with the French newspaper LIBERATION, al-Hariri said he believes that the only possible resolution of this situation lies with Israel's implementation of Resolutions 425 and 426. He added that when Israel declares its readiness to withdraw, the resistance will not have any reason to stay on. He said that an immediate withdrawal has not been proposed; rather he anticipates a gradual, scheduled withdrawal.

In another interview with REUTER, al-Hariri noted that the duty of the Lebanese Army is to guarantee the security of the Lebanese, not to guard Israel's borders. He said he believes that the Israeli blitz on the south harmed the peace process, but backfired on Israel, which will only find its peace by withdrawing from Lebanon.

Soldier Killed; One Injured in Shelling

NC0508172093 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 1530 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Text] Our military correspondent reports that an explosive device went off on the road to the Sujud post, wounding one soldier. The Sujud post was hit by artillery shelling, leading to the injury of another South Lebanese Army soldier. The unit at the post responded to the source of fire.

Islamic Resistance Claims Blast Near 'Hostile' Patrol

NC0608065793 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] The Islamic Resistance carried out an operation on the al-Rayhan road yesterday. It detonated an explosive device near a hostile patrol, leaving one soldier dead and two others injured. The Islamic Resistance issued a statement saying that the Martyr Muhammad Ahmad al-Musawi group detonated an explosive device at the the al-Rayhan road barracks near a joint Zionist-agent patrol, leaving one soldier dead and two others injured.

According to security reports, the resistance men attacked an agent militia position in Buslayya.

Hizballah Claims al-Hamra' Attack on SLA Positions

NC0608091593 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] According to security sources in Tyre, Hizballah fighters this morning carried out operations against Israeli Army and South Lebanese Army [SLA] positions in the occupied border strip. Three simultaneous attacks with rockets and machine guns took place on al-Hamra' bridge, which links the western sector of the occupied area to other Lebanese areas, at about 0800 today. The SLA controls this bridge. Hizballah issued a statement in south Lebanon this morning claiming responsibility for the attack.

Our security reporter said that the resistance attacked a joint Israeli-SLA patrol at al-Hamra' bridge and at the same time carried out an attack on the al-Hamra' post using rockets and machine guns. Resistance sources said that the al-Hamra' post was controlled and that another group carried out attacks on al-Hardun, al-Bayyadi, and

the radar posts. Israel and the SLA retaliated by bombarding al-Qurayya and al-Hinniyah in the Tyre district.

Katyusha Volleys Hit Security Zone; No Casualties

TA0508193893 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Excerpt] Two katyusha volleys landed approximately 15 minutes ago in the security zone of south Lebanon. Our correspondent Moti 'Eden reports there are no casualties and no damage was caused. One volley landed in al-'Ayshiyah in the eastern sector, and the other landed near the town of Marj 'Uyun. [passage omitted]

SLA Threatens To Resume 'All-Out Bombardment'

NC0608075193 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 0700 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] Our military correspondent reports that at 0830 today [6 August], South Lebanese Army [SLA] posts in al-Hamra', al-Bayyadah, and al- Hirban came under concentrated mortar fire. Moreover, Sagger anti-armor missiles were fired at these posts.

A senior military source has stressed that the SLA is not returning the fire. However, if the shelling of the border strip is not curbed the SLA will resume its violent and all-out bombardment.

Shiite Leader Says Christopher Visit of 'No Significance'

PM0608094993 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 5 Aug 93 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Shams-al-Din Sees 'No Significance' in Christopher's Visit to Lebanon"]

[Text] Beirut, AL-HAYAH—Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council, has said that "the brutal and terrorist Israeli attack has revealed the lack of a sense of morality and responsibility among the influential international powers, especially the big powers, some of which seem to have had knowledge of Israel's aggressive intentions but nevertheless did not budge or hasten to stop its new crime."

At a press conference yesterday Shams-al-Din praised the convening of the spiritual summit. He also praised "the Lebanese national spiritual will, which reflects the unity and willpower of the Lebanese society in its position toward the aggression and in continuing the state's march, which we have all joined." He added that "this summit represents a blessed rebirth of national unity."

He described the evacuees' return as "a brilliant achievement." He believes that it "is evidence of the people's strength and is a truthful expression of the citizens' strong will and strong ties to their land."

Shams-al-Din thanked all the states which have provided aid to Lebanon, stressing the need not to limit this aid to food and medical supplies.

He announced that at the spiritual Christian-Islamic summit held last Monday in Bkirki he submitted a proposal that "every fraternal and friendly state interested in helping the people and the state in Lebanon should undertake—each according to its ability—to build a village or a number of houses in coordination with the Lebanese Government. And I hope this proposal is being considered by those concerned inside and outside the country, because the more we speed up people's return to their homes, the more we deny the Israelis one of their aims."

On U.S. dealings with Lebanon and Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit he said, "I see no significance in Christopher's arrival in Lebanon, nor does his visit deserve all this attention. We exist and our will exists, whether or not he comes. And I believe it is unjustifiable to link Lebanon's dignity or credibility to the arrival of his excellency the U.S. secretary of state's. If he comes, he will be welcomed as a guest. But he will encounter a stern and decisive position with regard to Lebanon's interests. This is because the United States deals with Lebanon as a state; we are not a subjoined or incorporated state. We have one demand; that is the implementation of Resolution 425, which carries the U.S. signature. Lebanon's survival as an entity does not depend on Christophers' arrival. I advise politicians not to show such great interest in the visit."

Shaykh Shams-al-Din will head a meeting for the Shiite Council's legislative and executive committees sometime before noon today. He will also visit Aghnatyus IV Hazim, patriarch of the Greek Orthodox Church, in Dayr Mar Ilyas, Shwayya.

Lebanese Forces Issues Statement on Arrest of Members

NC0608081093 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] A reliable source within the Lebanese Forces has issued the following statement: The Lebanese Forces has made efforts over the past five days to learn the reasons for the large-scale campaign of arrests of its members and random raids on the homes of supporters and members in various Lebanese areas. The raids and arrest campaign have continued, counter to all law, civilized norms, and freedom.

The Lebanese Forces wants to address this campaign calmly and soberly, in order to preserve the higher national interests, out of its concern that a minimum level of accord and stability is maintained. The Lebanese

Forces regrets the way certain government officials deal with political activities and parties in Lebanon. It denounces and rejects the repressive methods being used. It calls on those concerned about higher national interests, accord, and enhancing understanding among the Lebanese to exert serious efforts to end any acts that might deepen the rift between the state and citizens and defame Lebanon and its institutions inside and outside the country.

The Lebanese Forces will continue to raise this issue and pursue it with the officials concerned until a radical solution is reached, which guarantees the revival of public and private freedoms and the security of supporters and citizens.

Henry Far'un, Bodyguard Found Dead in Beirut

NC0608092193 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] National leader Henry Far'un was found murdered in his suite in the Carlton Hotel [in Beirut] this morning. His bodyguard, 'Ali Shahid Surur, was also found murdered in an adjacent room.

Major General Rafiq al-Hasan, director general of the Internal Security Forces; Beirut Police Commander Brigadier General 'Abd-al-Karim Ibrahim; Judicial Police Commander Brigadier General Salim Salim; and Information Minister Michel Samahah went to the scene of the crime. An investigation into the case has begun.

Al-Asad, al-Shar' Meet Christopher, Ross

JN0608093493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0917 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received U.S. Secretary of State Mr. Warren Christopher at 1100 today.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Dennis Ross, Middle East peace coordinator, attended the meeting.

NPF Hails al-Asad's 'Immense Efforts' Toward Peace

JN0608055193 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] The Central Command of the National Progressive Front [NPF] held a meeting under President Hafiz al-Asad at 1830 yesterday.

It reviewed developments in the region and the Arab arena and held in-depth discussions on the Middle East peace process after 10 rounds of talks in Madrid and Washington.

The Central Command also took note of the contacts under way and the efforts being made by Syria to put the peace process on a path that leads to its objective—a just, comprehensive peace based on international legitimacy.

It viewed these efforts as a natural continuation of Syria's national and pan-Arab policy, and Syria's aspiration for a comprehensive, just peace that restores rights and returns territories.

The Central Command expressed great appreciation for the immense efforts President Hafiz al-Asad is exerting to safeguard national and pan-Arab rights and achieve a comprehensive, just peace.

It also strongly condemned Israel's military action against fraternal Lebanon and voiced absolute solidarity with the fraternal Lebanese people.

Paper Urges U.S. To Eliminate Israeli 'Obstacles'

JN0608061993 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 6 Aug 93

[From the press review]

[Text] Today's press comments and analyses highlight Arab concern over the establishment of a just, comprehensive peace in the Middle East and Israel's obstruction of the peace process.

Under the headline "Arab Concern and Israeli Disregard," AL-THAWRAH says: Like every tour of U.S. officials of the region, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has felt the constant concern of Syria and the Arabs to make the peace process succeed by achieving a just, comprehensive peace based on full implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy and the land-for- peace principle.

President Hafiz al-Asad has reaffirmed this concern very clearly by declaring Syria's willingness to cooperate, based on the foundations of the peace process, to achieve a just, comprehensive peace.

AL-THAWRAH asserts that the Arabs have never obstructed peace and are not to blame for the failure of the 10 successive rounds of peace talks. They believe in peace based on justice, right, and comprehensiveness. They are doing their utmost to enhance opportunities for peace and advance the peace process toward its goal of achieving a comprehensive solution on all fronts of the conflict to enable them to regain their occupied territories and usurped rights and lay the foundations of real peace in the region.

AL-THAWRAH notes Israel's intransigence and obstruction of the peace process, adding: Secretary Christopher must have seen, through facts on the ground, how Israel refuses to establish a just, comprehensive peace.

The paper asks the U.S. Administration to gear its efforts during the current stage toward eliminating Israeli obstacles, primarily the policy of aggression and maneuvering and all methods of deception and procrastination pursued by Israel to evade the obligations of peace.

These efforts by the United States, however, will not be successful and will not become a catalyst for peace unless they force Israel to change its stand toward the peace process by adopting the bases enshrined in the resolutions of international legitimacy and implementing the land-for-peace principle.

India

Government Reacts To Postponement of Elections

New Delhi To Seek Stay of Order

BK0508164093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Text] Government will seek a stay of the Chief Election Commissioner's order postponing elections when the case comes up for hearing in the Supreme Court tomorrow. This was announced by the parliamentary affairs minister, Mr. V.C. Shukla, in the Lok Sabha this evening. Responding to opposition members who were agitated over the issue, Mr. Shukla said the government will present its views when the court takes up a special leave petition of the election commission seeking transfer of cases related to the issue from the High Courts to the Supreme Court.

Expressing hope for getting a stay, Mr. Shukla said the government has been continuing its discussions with various authorities to finalize its stand on the matter. Mr. Shukla said the government has accepted the opinion expressed by the Attorney General on the scope of the election commission regarding the disciplinary jurisdiction over the staff and deployment of forces for election purposes. He assured the members that the government will also keep in mind the views expressed by the leaders of the opposition parties while presenting its case.

Earlier, the minister of state for law, Mr. H.R. Bhardwaj, made a brief statement on the issue evoking a sharp reaction from the opposition. Mr. Bhardwaj said the government is keen that the issues arising out of the election commission's order are decided as early as possible so that the democratic process of holding elections can continue without any hindrance. He said steps are being taken to seek expeditious disposal of all cases in this regard.

Opposition leaders expressed dissatisfaction over the statement and demanded concrete action to resolve the constitutional impasse. Charging the government for showing a casual attitude in dealing with a serious crisis, the opposition wanted steps to make the election commission a multi-member body. Some Janata Dal and CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] members demanded that the prime minister should come to the House to explain the government's stand.

The speaker, Mr. Shivraj Patil, appealed to the members to take a balanced view as the matter is very complicated. He said the matter is not only judicial, but also executive as well as legislative. Mr. Patil said if the matter is not solved by the judiciary and the executive in an acceptable manner, the legislature will solve it in the constitutional way. He said there is substance in the points made by both sides and the issue should be discussed in the House in a proper manner.

The Supreme Court today declined to list for an early hearing a petition by the election commission seeking transfer to the Apex Court petitions pending before the High Court of Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, and Patna challenging its order postponing elections.

The Tamil Nadu Government today filed a writ petition in the Madras High Court challenging the order of the election commission postponing all elections in the country. The government sought the quashing of the order and a direction restraining the Chief Election Commissioner, Mr. Seshan, from interfering in the holding of by-elections for the Palani Lok Sabha and Ranipeth assembly constituencies. As an interim measure, it sought a stay on the operation of the order, so far as the two by-elections are concerned.

The Gujarat High Court also took up for hearing today two petitions challenging the postponement of elections. Elections to three seats from the state for Rajya Sabha were originally scheduled for tomorrow. The petitions were filed by four Congress-I MLA's [Members of Legislative Assembly].

The Calcutta High Court today stayed the operation of the election commissioner's directive requiring the chief secretary and the home secretary of the West Bengal Government to be officers of the commission while coordinating the election work in the state. Mr. Justice Sumol Kumar Sen passed the order following a writ petition by the state government. Referring to the writ on postponement of elections, Mr. Justice Sen said since a stay order has already been granted there is no need to issue a fresh order.

High Court Grants Stay

BK0608100193 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] The Madras High Court has stayed the Election Commission's order postponing of elections in the country. The court has also stayed the commission's notification postponing the Palani Lok Sabha and Ranipet byelections in the state till the 18th of December. Admitting a batch of writ petitions from the Tamil Nadu government order, Mr. Justice K.S. Bhaktavatsalam, granted the interim stay till the 11th of this month. The court also stayed the operation of an early order of the Election Commission directing the center to deploy central forces in the two constituencies in the state.

Article Looks at Kashmir Militants, Conflicts

BK0608085793 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 2 Aug 93 p 3

[By Pushp Saraf: "Turf Wars Among Ultras Turn Deadly"]

[Text] Armed militant outfits in the Kashmir valley do not spare each other in their battle for supremacy, despite their seemingly united fight against security forces.

There have been instances of encounters between Hizbul Mujahidin and Al-Barq, particularly in the highly sensitive Kupwara district which is often used as a route by Pakistan-trained militants to infiltrate into the valley. They have mainly indulged in snatching arms. Initially, the Hizb and Jammu-Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) used to clash frequently, in which the latter has come out the worst.

Hizb is an extremely well-organised outfit patronised by pro-Pakistan Jamaat-i-Islami. It is the most disciplined and has an enviable reach. It is monolithic and intolerant of those seeking it to use as a platform to build up individual image. This was evident from the manner in which it got rid of its one-time dreaded leader Ahsan Dar. Dar has been marginalised ever since he was forced out of the Hizb.

Hizb's present head is Syed Salauddin whose real name is Moulvi Yusuf Shah. Originally he was a political activist. Shah was the Muslim United Front (MUF) candidate against Farooq Abdullah's education minister Ghulam Mohiuddin Shah in the controversial assembly elections. It is generally believed that the militancy in the valley got a fillip because of rigging in the Amirakadal constituency.

Four young men—Ashfaq Majid Wani, Yasin Malik, Hamid Sheikh and Javed Mir Nalqa—who were polling agents in the Amirakadal constituency were so upset by the rigging that they took to arms under the banner of the JKLF.

They became instant heroes in the valley. Wani and Hamid have since been killed. Malik is in jail in Delhi, and Nalqa is acting president of the JKLF.

In retrospect, it is evident that in the beginning of militancy in the valley, Hizbul Mujahidin had put its entire weight behind the four young JKLF leaders to harass the administration by exploiting the pro-independence fervour, and then pulled the rug from under their feet.

This was a calculated strategy. Hizb has gone on from this base to gradually emerge as the number one militant force in the valley with the help of the well-trained fundamentalist cadre of the Jamaat.

The JKLF, which was at one time armed to the teeth, has been reduced to a splinter organisation. Its local support makes it a force to reckon with in Srinagar city, which was once a National Conference stronghold. Besides Nalqa, Rafiq Ahmed Dar of Maisuma Bazar, in the heart of Srinagar, is among the organisation's top leaders currently out of jail.

Al-Barq is suspected to have the blessings of People's Conference leader Abdul Ghani Lone, who has just returned to India after an extensive tour of the United States. The outfit has been the most violent in recent months and has given a testing time to the security forces. It also has a sizeable number of foreigners.

Al-Barq recently struck in a big way in Malngam near Bandipura in Baramulla district. It was said to have engaged the security forces in a 3 hour confrontation resulting with a large number of casualties on both sides. Al-Barq militants have built up a halo around themselves by breaking their guns before dying.

Interestingly, the Hizb which had kept out of the encounter, later sought to claim credit for having extended support to Al-Barq.

Al-Barq was also involved in an ambush in Dolipura, and looting of a police station and attacked a BSF [Border Security Force] base in Willgam, both the places being in Kupwara district. Bilal Lodhi, a law graduate was the best-known Al-Barq militant before his arrest. His place has been taken over by Feroz Ilahi alias Khalid Jibran, a graduate.

Other militant outfits like Al-Jehad, Ikhwanul Muslimin, Al-Umar, Hizbullah and Harkatul Mujahidin, have been in the forefront at one time or the other because of selective killings and kidnappings. But of late their striking power has become suspect. Al-Jehad has a well-known political front in People's League of which Farooq Rahmani and Shabir Shah have been the best-known leaders. A comparatively new organisation is Harkat-e-Jehad-e-Islamia, dominated by Pakistani nationals.

The multiplicity of militant outfits and their frequent internecine clashes has forced their political mentors to sit up and try to think out a common strategy. It is evident that an earlier attempt to forge a united front has not succeeded.

Spokesman on Charges Against U.S. Firms

BK0508162493 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1428 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Text] Briefing newsmen, the official spokesman stated that the government has seen press reports about charges brought against two American companies violated US export control regulations in exporting certain items to the Defence Research and Development Laboratory [DRDL] in Hyderabad. [Word indistinct] transactions between DRDL and the US companies resulted from contracts concluded in 1987 after following standard government of India tendering and contract appraisal procedures. We understand that the implementation of these contracts was affected by the US companies keeping in view the prevailing import control regulations. We also understand that the US companies intend to contest the charges and we have no reason to believe that the US companies did not comply with applicable US export control regulations.

Christopher Seen Using Carrot-and-Stick Policy

LD0508201693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] According to dispatches, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, after concluding his trips to Syria and Lebanon, has headed for Tel Aviv to continue political consultations with the rulers of the Quds [Jerusalem] occupying regime.

In view of the week-long attacks of the Zionist regime against south Lebanon, political analysts have examined from different angles Christopher's Middle East tour, which has come in the wake of those assaults.

Some political observers believe that this tour is in continuation of Washington's efforts to draw the Arabs to a compromise with Israel. On this basis they consider as insignificant, any link between this tour and the Zionist regime's attacks against south Lebanon. They note that even though this tour has come under direct influence of the Israeli assaults against south Lebanon, its main goal is to create an atmosphere conducive to the start of the 11th round of the futile talks, which opened 20 months ago. In this same connection, the White House, by pledging $11 million in aid to Lebanon for rebuilding the losses caused by the Israeli attacks and also stressing that in the event of the discontinuation of the talks, a fate similar to that of Lebanon will befall all other Arab states, has made use of the stick and carrot policy.

But most analysts of the regional affairs belive that Christopher has acted very unscrupulously in adopting such policy. This is because neither any aid to Lebanon for compensating its losses can deceive the Muslim people of the region, nor will any threats on further aggressions by the Zionist regime against other Arab states will force them to change their postures.

Basically, following the Zionist army's aggression against south Lebanon, during which hundreds of people were killed and wounded and over 75 villages totally annihilated, even the most optimistic observers were convinced that the Zionist regime spared no efforts to attain its expansionist designs. Hence, it would be very difficult to continue the compromise talks between the Arabs and Israel at the current juncture. This is because Arab governments do not have any plausible excuse for pursuing the futile parleys.

On this basis, it is predicted that Mr. Christopher will hopelessly return to Washington. According to Western news sources, the White House is well aware that under the present circumstances it cannot hope for resumption of the talks. Despite this, the U.S. secretary of state is seeking to at least improve the currently tense and pessimistic atmosphere. So, the question posed once again is what the U.S. motive behind initiating the so-called peace talks and eventually forging a compromise between the Quds Occupying Regime and the Arab states is.

It must be pointed out that Washington's interest in attaining this compromise is related to various factors, most important of which are the stabilization of the Tel Aviv regime's position in the Middle East region and its legitimization at international level.

While America was compelled in the past due to its rivalry with the former Soviet Union to extend certain concessions to the Arabs sometimes, contrary to its inherent desire to always defend the Zionist regime, now it observes no need to posture its past policy.

Consequently, it is seeking to possibly draw the Arabs to a compromise in order to attain its long-term objectives in the Middle East more speedily. But apparently general awareness in the region is still maintaining many obstacles on the way of the U.S. Administration.

Government Voices 'Grave Concern' for Sarajevo

LD0508153893 Tehran IRNA in English 1459 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 5, IRNA—Iran's Foreign Ministry on Thursday expressed grave concern over the ongoing savage attacks of Serbs against Muslims which have now exposed the capital city of Sarajevo to a serious danger. The ministry in a statement urged the U.N. to establish security in Bosnia-Herzegovina or take immediate action for dispatch of Islamic forces to the war-torn Republic.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran condemns capture of the Igman heights around Sarajevo and calls for serious and decisive international reaction in order to save Sarajevo," said the statement.

It said the current circumstances stem from the procrastination of the U.N. forces against the aggressor Serbs, and reiterated Iran's readiness for the immediate dispatch of a 10,000-strong division. The recent Geneva talks, held under political, military, and psychological pressure as well as suspension of humanitarian aid for Muslims, are nearing the last episode of these crimes, the fall of Sarajevo, it said.

The statement added that the new round of Serbian attacks began at a time when the peace talks are underway in Geneva, which reveal disrespect of Serbs to peace, cease-fire and implementation of the agreements.

It said that international bodies through their silence and indifference have allowed the Serbs to go on with their crimes. Failure of the U.N. and other international organizations to take a serious stand over the issue will make the world to lose confidence in these organizations, it added.

President on Need for IAEA 'Confidence' in Iran

LD0508153993 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani in a meeting today with Mr. Ayatollahi, the Islamic Republic of Iran's

representative at the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], and while expressing satisfaction over Iran's adherence to peaceful international commitments, considered that generating confidence in the agency with regard to Iran's performance in the nuclear energy industry to be invaluable. The president also stressed that the generated confidence must continue intact. During the meeting Iran's representative at the IAEA told the president about the agency's performance.

Larijani Comments on Cabinet Composition Allegations

NC0508183893 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 24 Jul 93 p 2

[Unattributed report]

[Excerpts] The Militant Clergy Association is a political organization and should always maintain an active presence on the political scene.

This was stated by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, who is a member of the central council of the Tehran Militant Clergy Association, yesterday morning at a gathering of the members of the Association's election headquarters, which was set up for the sixth round of presidential elections. [passage omitted]

Dr. Mohammad Javad Larijani, the Tehran Majles deputy who was also present, alluded to some articles being published nowadays in the newspapers regarding the choice of the cabinet and said: Some newspapers, especially those that were in the majority during the third term of the Majles, are airing views on the cabinet and the Majles. They claim that a cabinet will be imposed and decisions will be based on the factions. I think that these people have forgotten that all decisions are made collectively. When members of a political group or organization get together, they should work together or it is a mere gathering of individuals. [passage omitted]

Larijani said: When I mention a collective action, it does not mean that those who do not belong to our line should be eliminated from the government "as was done in the third Majles." In fact, collective action means that we should keep in mind the objectives of the government and we should see what the needs of the government are. [repetitive passage omitted]

Shakeup in Presidential Cabinet Rumored

NC0608110193 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Station commentary: "Rumors of Changes in Hashemi-Rafsanjani's Cabinet"]

[Excerpts] Esteemed listeners: Following the selection and appointment [as heard] of Hashemi-Rafsanjani and his confirmation as president for another term, rumors have been circulating that in order to placate and please those who are displeased with him in his administration because of the regime's program and performance, he will probably change some of the pawns in his cabinet.

One hears the names of some of the ministers who appear to be on the verge of removal from their ministerial posts and those who might replace them and may give a new (?slant) to the president's cabinet. According to the regime's officials and the propaganda apparatus, it seems that the time for these rumors to come true is closer and some of the ministers of Hashemi-Rafsanjani's cabinet may have to make way for others.

It is not yet known which ministers will be removed from office and who will replace them. However, Hashemi-Rafsanjani will certainly try to keep these changes to a minimum and will not institute them in key positions. Critics and those in the administration who are disenchanted are hoping that the changes will be extensive. Without any doubt, regardless of what position is changed in Hashemi-Rafsanjani's cabinet, it will not affect the previous inhuman policy of that regime. [passage omitted]

These rumors and the changes that are expected to take place within the next few days in Hashemi-Rafsanjani's cabinet are not aimed at improving the regime's performance, but are indications of extensive differences inside the clerical hierarchy. The extent of these changes can be an indicator of how far Hashemi-Rafsanjani is prepared to retreat in the face of the present (?problems).

In any case, even though it is possible that these changes can be effective in resolving the internal rivalry, the people will still view it with indifference. They are certain that such changes will not mitigate their hardships and the vacuum in their lives and [word indistinct] will not be filled and will not prove a panacea for their thousands of maladies.

The masses in our country have long since realized that the internal differences among the regime's echelons do not stem from issues such as service to the people, or reconstruction and progress of the country. They are more on ways of exerting greater pressure on the people, destroying the country, stifling freedom, and increasing interference in the daily lives of the people. [passage omitted]

The result is obvious when the Vali-ye Faqih [supreme jurisconsult] imposes his thinking and decisions on all, and when the Majles deputies and the president, who should be elected by the people, are all imposed by the regime and the elections are then concocted as a mere farce, when people do not have the right to be candidates, nor participate freely in the elections. In light of the way officials are confirmed, appointed and dismissed—officials who do not even require the votes of the people and are directly appointed by high-level officials—one can easily predict the effects of these cosmetic changes on the country's administrative affairs.

It is therefore natural that the people of our country indifferently view the changes in Hashemi-Rafsanjani's cabinet as unimportant and do not expect any positive feedback from them. This is because they were also

indifferent toward Hashemi-Rafsanjani continuing in office as president and were certain that whether he stayed or went, there would be no changes to the benefit of the people or any progress in the country, the regime's policies, or its inhuman performance. [passage omitted]

Finance Minister Views Economic Programs

LD0508201293 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1510 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Studio interview with Mohsen Nurbakhsh, minister of economy and finance, by unidentified correspondent; date not given; from the "Political Roundtable" program—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Correspondent] One issue that has been raised is economic development and social justice. Some believe that social progress has priority over social justice, while others believe that social justice is more important than economic development. Others believe that generally speaking the two issues are not compatible. During the presidential inauguration of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the leader of the Islamic revolution also referred to these issues of social justice and social welfare. As the minister of economy and finance, which of these policies will you adopt?

[Nurbakhsh] Yes. As a rule, the basis of our work is what the leadership has determined as the country's basic policies, which will then be approved by the Majles in the form of the second plan. The same thing happened with the first plan, when general policies were confirmed by our great imam [Khomeyni] and then they were approved by the Majles as our first plan.

As to your question, if we pay attention to the remarks of the honorable leader [Khamene'i], we can see that in fact his excellency has somehow put the two together. This contrasts with the view of those who set these two issues in opposition to each other. The exact words spoken by his eminence were that we would like to have a wealthy society in which poverty has no place, and that we would like to have social progress toward social justice. In other words, what we want is a wealthy society with a satisfactory economic growth toward social welfare and the removal of poverty. [passage omitted]

I believe that in fact we need to provide the necessary facilities in terms of economic progress in order to increase social wealth and achieve the principles of social welfare and social justice. That economic progress should aim to remove deprivation, as was also mentioned by the eminent leader.

[Correspondent] Of course a general question is raised here: the implementation of some of the government's economic plans results in inflation, and the effects of that inflation are felt mainly by the vulnerable strata of the community. What plans are there for supporting those strata?

[Nurbakhsh] Look in any case, in any investment, and in any activity for economic development purposes, some investment resources have to be separated from consumption and allocated to a particular project and investment. For example, suppose you want to build a road, or build a hospital—all of which are development matters; this involves equipment and building materials which you must set aside from general consumption and allocate them to that task. The very fact that you set that aside and allocate it for a particular investment means an increase in the price of that particular field since a new demand has been created. Therefore, we are forced to accept that.

What the government has done, however, and what we envisage, is to compensate certain strata of the population for the price increase to some extent. The government assistance in this regard is in general terms; that is, we do not say that this particular stratum is going to be assisted or that others will not get any assistance. I am talking about goods which the government subsidizes in general.

For example, in the field of foodstuffs there are four or five definite items such as loaf and granulated sugar, cooking oil, etc, which the government directly subsidizes and thus they are included in this policy. There are instances where action is taken in a selective manner. For example, in the economic adjustment plans, we had to raise the prices of iron and cement. We noticed its positive economic effect as well. For example, a previous cabinet session discussed the cement factories facing excess production and seeking to export some of their output; for the time being they have not been given leave to do that but have been told to reflect that excess of production by reducing the price.

My point is that, as a result of the policy we adopted, a problem—a shortage of cement—has been eliminated. That is, at the moment no one sees a shortage of cement. On the other hand, we do not envisage the price increase to have a negative effect on the strata with low incomes. [passage omitted]

Therefore the procedure is that the subsidies are general, and when the difference in price affects particular strata we try to compensate for that adjustment.

[Correspondent] If you do not mind, we will now discuss the second development plan, which is to be presented to the Majles soon. Could you comment on the plan's characteristics and say how it differs from the first development plan.

[Nurbakhsh] In the first plan, the main emphasis was on quantity and the need to quickly compensate for the great underdevelopment which we were facing. We had to reorganize production fast, and primary studies indicate that we have somewhat achieved this. The second development plan is concerned mainly with quality, and attention is paid to the method of capital usage, quality, and output. It will ask the question: what will be the social implications of these investments?

Obviously, the guidance the exalted leader [Ayatollah Khamene'i] has given in the past several days will be taken as the foundation and main aim of the second development plan. And as the honorable president has stated, the general policies have been presented to him. Experts have also held discussions.

As a rule, the general policies will be set by him [Ayatollah Khamene'i]. But it is definite, and he has also indicated in his general talks, that the issue of the quality of development—we will of course also aim at economic development and growth in the second development plan—is the main concern. The increase in social wealth and an improvement in general welfare are our main concern.

In his past two meetings, the president discussed, more or less, ways of executing the program, and this could complete the discussions. The president emphasized the need to cut dependency and to consume what is produced rather to consume national reserves. [passage indistinct] In other words, instead of selling oil and using its income to meet consumption, the oil income should be turned into refineries, petrochemical complexes. [passage omitted: repetition] Thus, provision should be made for the social use of the added value.

Another subject that has been brought up in the talks of the exalted leader and our honorable president is that of social justice. Social wealth must increase in a manner that will be enjoyed by all social sectors.

It was clear in the president's speech that a condition where particular classes enjoy special provisions—distinctly present in some subsidies which create inequalities—must be brought to an end in the second development plan. Here I repeat, but in detail, the example the president gave about fuel. He pointed out that the value of fuel and energy used in the country is around $14 billion. Look, this $14 billion works out at about 3,000 tomans per capita per month. A family of five could have about 15,000 tomans per month from the national fuel. Are all members and classes of society using the same amount? Or are some people who are richer using more energy that those who live in villages or who live in cities but have much more limited resources? We have such inequalities and we must try to correct them in the second development plan.

I see the second development plan in line with the first. The basis of our policies is to complete the policy of economic readjustment and also to pay greater attention to provisions for the deprived classes. We have submitted the bill for provision of social welfare to the Majles and it should become law before the start of the second development plan.

There are two types of support that will be available for the deprived classes. First there are those covered by the title of insurance support, which includes health, pensions, compensation, and unemployment. These are general services provided by insurance and will be available for the general public once it becomes law. Then there are also the noninsurance services for those who are not able to work. Here organizations such as the relief committee and welfare organization will have a grater role in making provisions for these classes as to allow them to work in society.

[Correspondent] [passage omitted]

* Prices of Various Fruits, Vegetables Announced

93LA0126D Tehran HAMSHAHRI in Persian 6 Jun 93 p 20

[Text]

Prices for Fruits and Vegetables in Squares in the Municipality of Tehran (according to latest information)

Type	Price of 1 kg in rials (good quality)
White watermelon	150
Mahbubi watermelon	120
Mahbubi watermelon bigger than 3 kg	160
Large choice strawberries	750
Large green tomatoes	250
Green tomatoes	250
Ribbed melon	200
Black and white berries	250
Dezfuli strawberries	300
Pink cherries	500
Red cherries	900
Large ripe apricots	800
Dastanbu melon	200
Choice red Lebanese apples	300
Choice yellow Lebanese apples	300
Green French apples	300
Abgiri apples	100
Fanak apples	400
Fresh southern sour lemons	650
Choice southern sweet lemons	220
Choice southern oranges	300
Graded large northern oranges	300
Graded medium northern oranges	300
Graded Abgiri oranges	100
Large northern Namun oranges	500
Northern Washington oranges	450
Red meat grapefruit	230
White grapefruit	150
Shahrudi grapes	200
Choice bananas	1,250

Prices for Fruits and Vegetables in Squares in the Municipality of Tehran (according to latest information) (Continued)

Type	Price of 1 kg in rials (good quality)
Large white watermelons more than 5 kg	180
Choice tomatoes	200
White onions	270
New potatoes	180
Estanbul potatoes	350
No. 1 thin cucumbers	350
No. 2 cucumbers	200
Salad cucumbers	100
Choice Farangi carrots	180
Graded Romaine lettuce	130
Salad Romaine Lettuce	120
Miscellaneous vegetables	130
Spinach and beet leaves	100
Dill	130
Rhubarb	450
Farangi leeks, per bunch	120
Dolmeh pepper	500
Kabab pepper	400
Ground pepper	600
White cabbage	120
Red cabbage	150
Broad beans	100
Green beans	600
Graded eggplant	100
Qasri eggplant	420
Dolmeh eggplant	450
Thin squash	160
Artichokes	550
Green peas	450
Grape leaves	750
Okra	550
Fresh onion without leaves	180
Peaches	550

* Professor on Housing Shortage, Building Criteria

93LA0129C London KEYHAN in Persian 29 Jul 93 p 4

[Text] Dr. Mojavari, professor at the Technical College of Tehran University, said that the confusion about criteria and construction in the country increases every day and that there is no constructive system in this regard.

Dr. Mojavari was speaking at a seminar at the Third Specialized Exposition of Construction Materials and Supplies. He added: Based on the nation's First Five-Year Development Plan, 500,000 housing units must be built every year, yet now only 165,000 units are being created. This exposition was held in the middle of the month of Tir [22 Jun-22 Jul] at the Tehran Permanent International Expo Site.

Mojavari emphasized that the traditional way is not the answer to the nation's current needs and that the use of machinery in this industry is easy, inexpensive, fast, and attractive. Mojavari criticized the conversion of agricultural soil to brick. He said: Seven-eighths of the nation's soil is not arable, and if the other one-eighth is converted to brick, the nation's natural wealth will be lost.

He advised builders of housing units and construction insiders to use concrete instead of brick. Mojavari said: In industry, it is damaging to the country to import prefabricated factories. The only path to independence is through one's own appropriate industrial innovation.

He explained that we are only acting as a consumer. He said: New construction materials are marketed every day in the world, but no thinking has been done in Iran about organizing systems.

In conclusion, Mojavari discussed the contradictions among the nation's various systems, such as those between the judicial and banking systems or the educational system. He said: To solve this problem, the nation's officials must standardize activities.

We note that one of the major goals of the revolution of 1358 [21 Mar 1979-20 Mar 1980] was to secure housing for the deprived, and Article 3 of the Constitution says that is one of the duties of the government. Despite all this, published statistics (refer to the table) show that throughout the decade of the 1360's [21 Mar 1981-20 Mar 1991], Iran's housing production was faced with stagnation or even decline. In view of the uncontrolled growth in population, this intensified the housing crisis, especially in the large cities.

In the Islamic Republic, answering to the existing housing demand has been almost completely turned over to the private sector (the government sector's share in this is less than 2 percent).

The experts say that now the housing shortage in Iran has reached 3 million housing units, and based on the housing sector's highest rate of production, meeting that need would take 20 years. The same experts add that rising poverty, which has overtaken more than half the population, has had comprehensive bad effects on housing.

The construction of housing units at minimum cost has caused more than 50 percent of the units built to be considered "semipermanent" or "impermanent." The increased crowding of housing units is another of the consequences of the general poverty in the housing sector.

More than two families live in more than 1 million housing units. Apart from this, 21 million people live in one or two rooms. Thus on the average four people live in one room and five people live in two rooms.

Based on the criteria under consideration in the general census in Iran, "what is meant by a 'room' in a housing unit is a walled space with a ceiling having at least four square meters of area and two meters height."

Number of Housing Units Produced by Private Sector

Year	Number of Units for Housing	Foundation Area (thousand square meters)	Number Indicator for Housing Unit
1354 [21 Mar 1975-20 Mar 1976]	101,357	13,616	100.0
1355 [21 Mar 1976-20 Mar 1977]	101,686	14,439	100.3
1356 [21 Mar 1977-20 Mar 1978]	119,173	16,822	117.5
1357 [21 Mar 1978-20 Mar 1979]	15,0059	19,123	130.0
1358 [21 Mar 1979-20 Mar 1980]	163,779	21,888	161.5
1359 [21 Mar 1980-20 Mar 1981]	180,094	35,782	177.7
1360 [21 Mar 1981-20 Mar 1982]	130,598	19,515	128.8
1361 [21 Mar 1982-20 Mar 1983]	101,646	18,809	100.2
1362 [21 Mar 1983-20 Mar 1984]	93,865	15,954	92.6
1363 [21 Mar 1984-20 Mar 1985]	130,197	22,821	128.4
1364 [21 Mar 1985-20 Mar 1986]	144,050	25,769	124.1
1365 [21 Mar 1986-20 Mar 1987]	129,856	23,763	128.1
1366 [21 Mar 1987-20 Mar 1988]	129,565	23,931	127.8
1367 [21 Mar 1988-20 Mar 1989]	128,000	19.8 million	126.3
1368 [21 Mar 1989-20 Mar 1990]	114,000	17 million	114.5

Pakistan

Foreign Ministry Hails Plan for Bosnian Air Strikes

BK0508143093 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Excerpt] Pakistan has welcomed the decision by the NATO council to resort to air strikes against the Serbian forces in Bosnia trying to cut off capital Sarajevo completely from the rest of the world.

A statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs says in Islamabad: Pakistan, along with its ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] partners, has consistently called for the use of air power against the Serbian aggressor. It said Pakistan expects that (?physical) air strikes would be conducted against those who are preventing the flow of the essential humanitarian supplies to the starving Bosnian people. [passage omitted]

Editorial Views Military Role in Politics

BK0508124893 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 5 Aug 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Well Done Military, But Stay In Your Boots"]

[Text] The military earned the kudos of the people when in the wake of August 1988 air crash it decided to follow the constitution and resisted the temptation of directly capturing political power. Although there emerged the extra constitutional system of rule by troika in which the Army Chief had a decisive say both in matters of domestic and foreign policy, the course followed by it appeared well within the confines of the constitution. There have also been some subtle and some not-so-subtle invitations to the military for a take-over from some disgruntled politicians like Malik Qasim, Pir Pagara, Zahid Sarfraz and even Aftab Sherapo, the latter seeing no harm in the Army removing the Sharif government and holding fresh elections in 90 days under martial law. It is indeed creditable that in spite of both temptations and grave provocations the Army stayed clear of politics.

But in spite of its facade of not dabbling in politics, which has been the constant refrain of the Army Chief, General Abdul Waheed ever since his first address to the troops when he took over command in January last, a perception is growing in some minds that the Army is over reaching its constitutional limits. First during the height of Ishaq-Nawaz tussle the Army Chief reportedly told Nawaz Sharif that fresh elections was the only way out of the political dead end we had reached. This was playing on Ishaq's wicket and many saw in it a partisan tilt of the Army. When the Press and the public protested, the ISPR [Interservice Public Relations] issued a clarification but denials and clarifications hardly correct public perceptions.

And now just consider what has been happening on the national scene ever since the Ishaq-Nawaz duo quit and the caretakers have been brought in. The caretaker chief ministers and governors converge on the capital and first

go to the GHQ [General Headquarters] to pay their respects to the Army Chief. The caretaker Foreign Minister Abdul Sattar, an able and competent diplomat in his own right, is summoned to the GHQ and the Joint Staff Headquarters to get his briefing. Pictures showing them paying respectful homage to the Army chief are promptly and dutifully supplied to newspaper offices. The Chief Election Commissioner [CEC] summons a meeting of the commission to discuss modalities for elections and the Judge Advocate General (JAG) of the Army barges into the office to see if everything is in order. There is a separate election cell in the GHQ under a Lieutenant General, although the Constitution says that the holding of elections is the constitutional responsibility of CEC and generals do not figure in there. The Chief Election Commissioner Justice Naimuddin takes a bundle of files under his arm and goes to the GHQ to explain the home work done by the Commission. And this happened almost on the same day when in India the Election Commissioner suspended by-elections indefinitely until as demanded by him, "the government accepts and announces in unequivocal language to abide by the Constitution and the laws relating to elections".

But that is not all. The country's prime minister even though he is caretaker type, Mr Moin Qureshi returns from a visit to the US and the first thing he does is to give a report on his visit to the COAS [Chief of Army Staff]. Worse still both Mr Wasim Sajjad and Mr Moin Qureshi presented themselves Tuesday at the GHQ ostensibly in connection with the finalisation of programme for the forthcoming elections but in reality to get some direction from the corps commanders who also happened to meet on that day. From the TV picture it was more than clear that both had been summoned to the GHQ to be talked down by the military rather than be talked with. The over a dozen military commanders greeted them rather tersely with their peak caps removed so as to avoid having to salute them. Most of the talking was done by the Army Chief as the Acting President and Prime Minister listened. Clearly on Tuesday the generals went a bit too far. Clearly also the military has been politicised as much as the politics has been militarised in this country.

The generals, however, would do well to realise that all this is doing no good to their image. They want to have the cake and eat it too. They want to have all the trappings of political powers but do not want to take the risk for it. They cherish power but disdain getting a bad name for it. This is an elusive goal which will evade them the harder they chase it. The generals must stay in their boots.